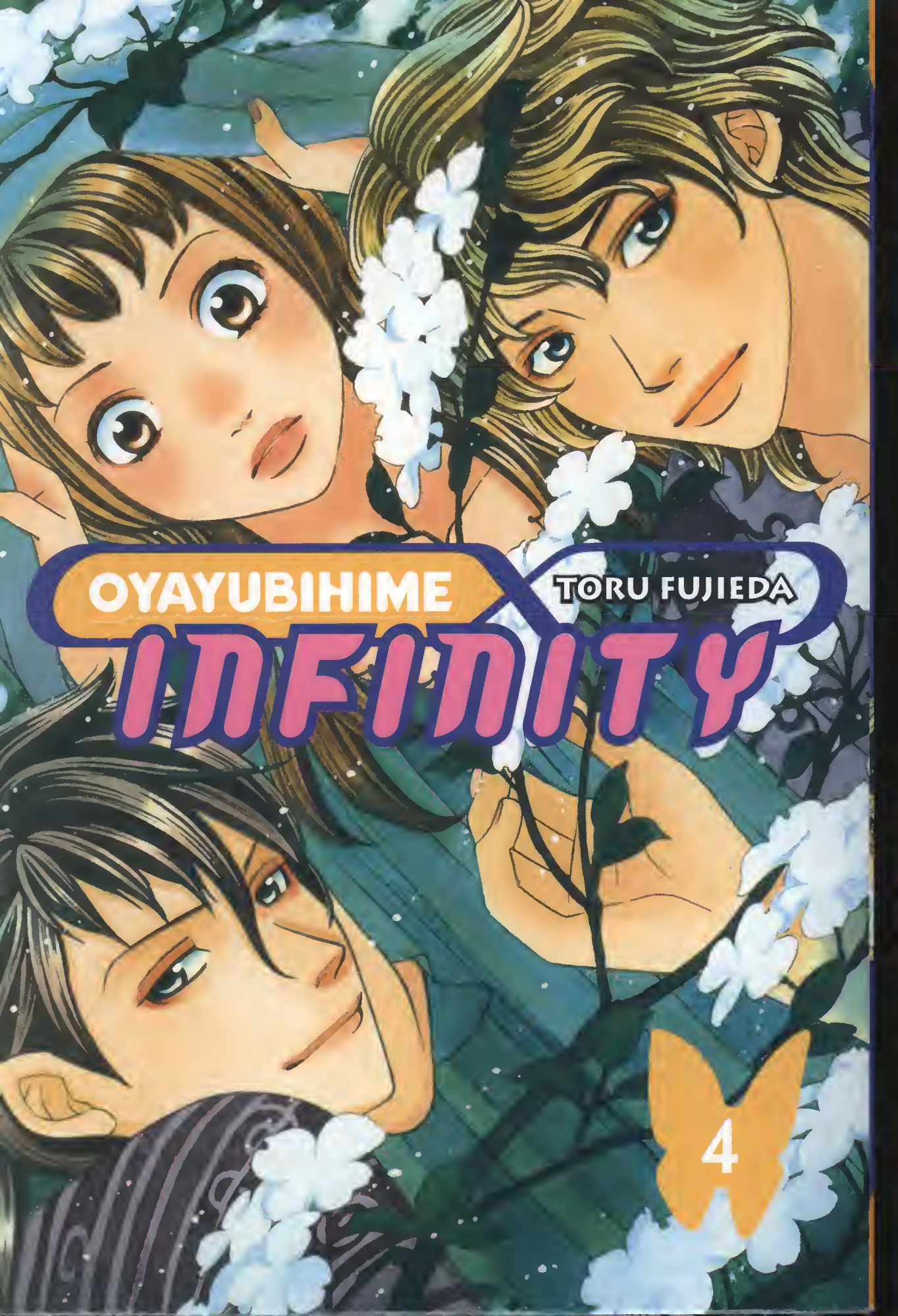
REMEMBER TO SUPPORT THE MANGAKA,
BUY YOUR COPY TODAY!!
DO NOT SHARE OUTSIDE OF IRC.


OYAYUBIHIME
TORU FUJIEDA
INFINITY
4

OYAYUBIHIME INFINITY

Volume 4

By Toru Fujieda

OYAYUBIHIME INFINITY
Volume:4

READ MAIL
[SUBJECT]

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• THE STORY SO FAR •

A high school student named Kanoko has a birthmark shaped like a butterfly on her thumb. The most popular kid at school, Tsubame, discovers her birthmark and tells her it's a sign that she's his "true love." He has a birthmark with the same shape. Apparently, it is a symbol of a promise to meet again, made in a past life. Tsubame had been searching for Agemaki, the love of his previous life.

* At first Kanoko finds Tsubame quite unpleasant, she lies to him to get him to stay away from her. After meeting Tsubame's friend Kiki and getting to know a bit more about Tsubame she is able to see through her own snobbery and realize her true feelings for him.

* In the middle of all this Kanoko's sister Mayu disappears, prompting Kanoko to want to learn more about her past life. She soon realizes that she was indeed Agemaki. However, Kanoko's Agemaki is not quite the person Tsubame was looking for. Though this somewhat disappoints Kanoko she feels a great sympathy for Agemaki, and is able to look forward with renewed will!

* And then there's the leader of the idol group "Splash," Arata, who Kanoko only met because of the whole incident where Mayu ran away. He has the same birthmark as Kanoko, and claims to be a person with whom Agemaki shared a deep relationship.

AGEMAKI, YOU ARE NOT MEANT TO BE HERE LIKE THIS FOR LONG...
YOU MUST ALLOW ME TO REDEEM YOU.
MY LORD, YOU NEEDN'T DO SUCH A TRIFLING THING FOR ME ...
NOW, NOW. IT IS A WORTHY ENTER-TAIN-MENT.
WHERE YOU WILL HAVE WHATEVER YOU WANT FOR THE REST OF OUR DAYS.
IT WOULD BE BETTER TO COME WITH ME...
YOU MUSTN'T SACRIFICE YOUR BODY TO PAY YOUR DEBTS.

Character Guide: #18

Taiju Kurihara

Birthday: 4/5
Blood Type: O

Freshman
In High School

A member of Splash He entered show business aspiring to be like Arata He thinks that Kanoko is not worth Arata's time. He refuses to acknowledge her as a worthy partner for Arata, and will try all he can to pull him away from her He is currently drinking lots of milk and eating dairy products in an effort to increase his height.

KANOKO!! WHAT HAPPENED WITH YOU AND THIS GUY IN THE PAST LIFE?
UH... DID YOU JUST SEE A VISION OF THE PAST LIFE?!
Who is this guy?
WHAT... WAS THAT?
ALL I DID WAS TOUCH KANOKO'S HAND AND, LIKE, BANG, THIS MEMORY OF PROPOSING TO HER JUST FLEW INTO MY HEAD.
THERE'S NO MISTAKE ABOUT IT...IT'S DEFINITELY HIM.
THAT WAS PRETTY NUTS !!
.....SAKAKIBARA-SAMA...
THIS IS THE GUY WHO TOLD ME ABOUT THE BUTTERFLY TATTOO IN THE PAST LIFE...
HE WAS THE NOBLEMAN WHO TRIED TO... REDEEM AGEMAKI.

SAKAKIBARA-SAMA...
SLAP
WAH!!
"WAH?"
What the heck are you two doing?
They were holding hands!!
AW, MAN... WE TOUCHED BIRTHMARKS WHEN I WASN'T PAYING ATTENTION.
THAT WAS... DEFINITELY ANOTHER ONE OF THOSE PAST-LIFE VISION-THINGS...

AND I KNEW THEN THAT I WOULD BE REBORN SOMEDAY AND I WOULD FIND YOU AGAIN.
AND THAT IS WHY WE MET LIKE THIS.
...SO ARE YOU GOING TO START USING THE "DESTINY" WORD, TOO?
AND JUST WHEN I GAVE UP, YOU RAN AWAY WITH SOME OTHER GUY AND COMMITTED SUICIDE.
NO MATTER HOW MUCH MONEY I WOULD HAVE PUT UP FOR YOU, YOU WOULD'VE NEVER LEFT THAT PLACE.
YOU WERE IN SUCH ANGUISH, AND IT WASN'T ENOUGH.
SKETCH
HE WAS A... NOBLEMAN?
Ho ho ho ho ho
What hello there children!
NO, NO, YOU TWO AIN'T GOT IT RIGHT.
I thought noblemen back then preferred boys?

OH YES. OH YES.
I THINK YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.
THAT'S HOW ME AND AGEMAKI MET, AT ANY RATE.
SOMETHING "GORGEOUS!?"
BAM
AND OH! WE WERE VERY CLOSE, SO VERY CLOSE.
JUST A COUPLE MORE SECONDS AND WE WOULDA SEEN SOMETHING GORGEOUS.
SHE WAS QUITE A GENIUS AT WEARING A MAN DOWN. AND... WELL...
I'D BETTER NOT SAY ANY MORE, ELSE WE'D GET INTO "MATURE"-RATED STUFF.
KANOKO!!
How COULD you!?
HEY, IT WAS NOT ME! AGEMAKI DID IT!!
...HM?
HEY, LOOK OVER THERE. ISN'T THAT PRINCE ARATA FROM SPLASH?
And that kid that looks like Talia?

THE SHOCK MUST HAVE GOTTEN TO HIM.
HEY, BOSS!! TSUBAME IS ENCASED IN A BLOCK OF ICE !!
Heat it up!
ARATA IS SAKAKIBARA ..
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT...
"I WILL NOT LET HER GO."
"IF I FIND HER AGAIN..."
NOW I'M GOING TO HAVE TO EXPLORE THIS PAST LIFE BUSINESS AGAIN...
THIS IS TOO MUCH.

Cmon Taiju, let's get goin.
ANYWAY, IT WAS REAL NICE SEEIN' YOU BOYS AND GIRLS. LET'S ALL BE FRIENDS.
Y'ALL HAVE A HAPPY NEW YEAR, ALL RIGHT?
AHA.
I THINK WE GOTTA ESCAPE.
YOU'RE RIGHT IT IS HIM !
OH MY GOD !!
GRAB THEM, QUICK !!
I ENTERED MY CELL PHONE NUMBER IN THERE SO YOU CAN TEXT ME.
And sent myself a text so I know your number!
POP
AND HEY, HERE'S YOUR CHRISTMAS PRESENT.
WELL, THAT WAS KIND OF SURREAL.
Business as usual, I guess.
No! No! Taiju! Don't leave yet .....!!
SO NOW THERE'S ANOTHER GUY WITH A BUTTERFLY BIRTHMARK LOOKING FOR AGEMAKI.
HA HA HA HA
YOU BETTER SEND ME SOME MESSAGES!
Now with bonus "SPLASH" strap!!
SPLASH
HEY!! THIS IS MY PHONE... ?!
When the heck did you...

Arata, five years ago.
AND I WAS HOOKED ...
IN SIXTH GRADE OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, MY BIG SISTER TOOK ME TO THE TALENT AGENCY FOR AN INTERVIEW...
AND ARATA TAUGHT ME MY FIRST DANCE LESSON ...
THIS PLACE IS PRETTY ROUGH!
YOU BETTER HAVE A SENSE OF ADVENTURE IF YOU WANNA STAND ON THE SAME STAGE AS ME, KID!
GRIN
SO, YOU'RE THE NEW KID, HUH?
I only just got here myself, anyway.
I WAS ACCEPTED INTO THE AGENCY...
...AND THEN...
...I FULFILLED MY MANLY PROMISE TO ARATA, AND I STAND ON IT TO THIS DAY.
Hm-hmm.
You got pluck!! I'll take that as a promise! .. Here, want a beverage?
Y-
YES, SIR!!

THIS KANOKO IS THE RIGHT GIRL BECAUSE OF "DESTINY ?!"
YOU HAVE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME!! "PAST LIFE?" "DESTINY ?"
YOU KNOW, I LOOKED UP TO ARATA FOR A LONG TIME!
YOU MIGHT SAY I'D EVEN LIKE TO BE HIM SOMEDAY!
SO SEEING HIM WITH SOME BORING PUBLIC-SCHOOL-LUNCH KIND OF GIRL REALLY BURNS ME!
WELL!! KANEKO, YOU HEARD THE WEIRDO BIRTHMARK STORY, TOO, RIGHT?
HEY, KEEP QUIET. I HAVE NEIGHBORS.
And I'm trying to listen to this loud music.

I hope I can have kids of my own some day! This is fun!
HA HA HA
MAYU...DID HE...DO SOMETHING TO YOU, IN THE PAST LIFE?
GRRRR
AND YOU MUST NEVER, EVER LET HIM TOUCH YOUR HAIR!!
KANOKO, YOU MUST NEVER GO OVER TO HIS HOUSE!!
WAHH

AWWWW, C'MON, THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE I WANT YOU TO TRY ON.
I've got so MUCH other stuff people gave me that I don't want !!
I'M NOT A DOLL!!
UH... I... THINK THAT'S ENOUGH

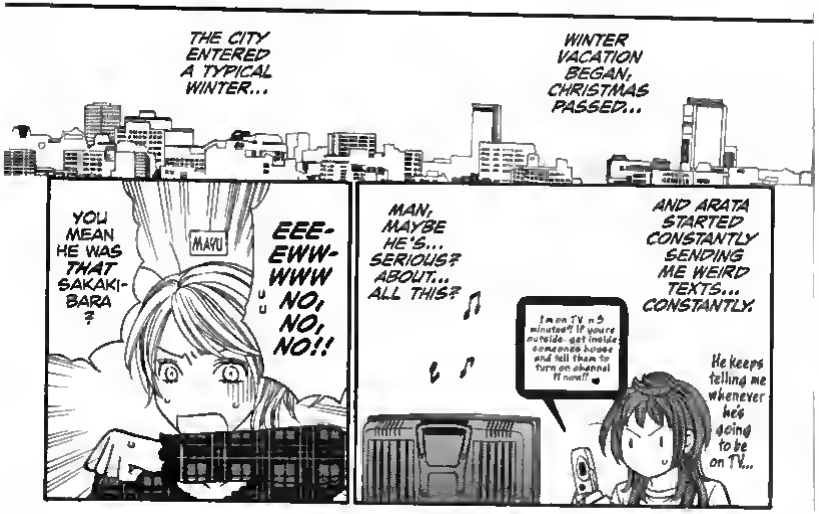
AND SO...

I BEGAN THE NEW YEAR.

IT'S SO GREAT TO BE ABLE TO MAKE YOU LOOK CUTE LIKE THIS!
I ALWAYS KNEW THIS DAY WOULD COME !!
YOU LOOK SO CUTE, KANOKO !!
WOWWW!!!!
Fashion by Mayu

HE MADE YOU PROMISE HIM SOMETHING, THOUGH DID HE PROMISE YOU ANYTHING? HE MAKES YOU FEEL IMPORTANT, IS WHAT HE DOES.
I SHOULD PROBABLY TELL YOU, THAT GUY-- ARATA-- HE'S NOT AS FAIR AS YOU MIGHT THINK.

...YEAH, MAYBE I'D BETTER QUIT THE GROUP AFTER ALL, HUH?
And stop listening to this new song too. Man.
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO MAKE ME DOUBT HIM, KANEKO.
OH, YOU'RE JUST BEING JEALOUS !!

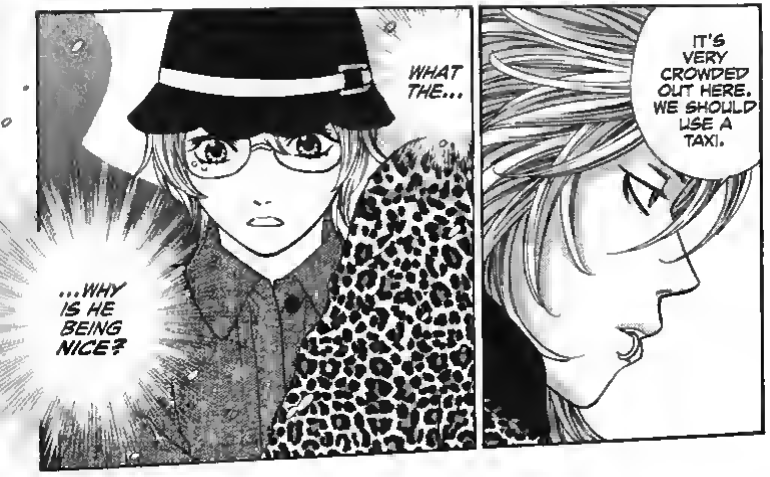

THE CITY ENTERED A TYPICAL WINTER...
WINTER VACATION BEGAN, CHRISTMAS PASSED..
YOU MEAN HE WAS THAT SAKAKI-BARA ?
MAYU
EEE-EWW-WWW NO, NO, NO!!
MAN, MAYBE HE'S... SERIOUS? ABOUT... ALL THIS?
I'm on TV in 5 minutes!? If you're outside, get inside, someone hurry and tell them to turn on channel 11 now!!
AND ARATA STARTED CONSTANTLY SENDING ME WEIRD TEXTS... CONSTANTLY.
He keeps telling me whenever he's going to be on TV...

WAH...!!
She's so cute in the dress!
HELLO!! KANOKO!! UH... HELLO!!
OH...!!
IT'S TSUBAME AND MIKE...!!
HEY... KANOKO, ARE THESE FRIENDS OF YOURS?
Happy New Year!!
.....
COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS IN 6 WEEKS
Actually, I have something else to do...
WELL, YEAH, KINDA.
WE TRIED INVITING THE WRITING CLUB PEOPLE... THEY ALL SAID THEY WERE BUSY. SO IT'S JUST ME AND MIKE.
SO, TSUBAME, YOU GUYS ARE HERE FOR THE NEW YEAR'S SALES?
GYA
SWOOSH

HEY, DON'T YANK ME...
LET'S GO!!
GRAB
THE COLD ONLY MAKES THE SHOPPING MORE EXCITING!!
I read that in a magazine!
Go, you're coaching me now??
ARE YOU KIDDING? IT'S FREEZING OUT THERE.
YEAH, I KNOW! LET'S GO SHOPPING! IT'S NEW YEAR'S, SO THERE'S GOT TO BE PLENTY OF SALES!!
NEW YEAR'S SALE
JOOM
GHHHHHH
I'd rather be outside in the cold than in here.
PEOPLE ARE SO DESPERATE TO BUY ANY-THING.

I DON'T THINK SO.
MIKE... WHERE... YOU...?
YOU WANNA... GO HAVE SOME... TEA OR SOMETHING?
KANOKO, YOU'RE, UM, NOT DOING ANYTHING RIGHT NOW?
UM...
UM... GOO.....

SO, HOW ABOUT YOU, UH, KANOKO?
NAH, I'M NOT BUSY... JUST
HEY, I WAS HERE WITH KANO--
I WILL ESCORT YOU.
MS. HIMEMIYA, YOU'RE GOING HOME, YES?
I WILL ESCORT YOU.
U... ...YES
WELL, I HAVE TO STUDY FOR MY EXAMS. SO, I'M GOING HOME.
HEY!! MIKE--
YOU TWO, HAVE FUN. YES.


WHAT THE...
...WHY IS HE BEING NICE?
IT'S VERY CROWDED OUT HERE. WE SHOULD USE A TAXI.

HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED ANYTHING UNUSUAL SINCE THAT DAY?
UM... YES.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
IS THIS GOOD ENOUGH?

MAYU'S IMAGINATION
GRRRRR
PSYCHO
WHAT DO I DO IF HE STARTS SNACKING ON LIVE PIGEONS OR SOMETHING?
WHY? WHY? WHY DO I GET STUCK WITH SCARY-HAIRED CREEPO MIKE?
OH MY GOD, OH MY GOD.

I'LL CARRY THEM FOR YOU.
GIVE ME YOUR BAGS.
Y-YES, ...SIR?
HIMEMIYA.

...HUH?
HERE. HOLD ON RIGHT HERE.
DON'T STRAY.
Right HERE

WE WENT TO HAVE TEA TOGETHER, AND ENDED UP EATING CAKE.
I HAD A BERRY TART, AND HE ATE A CLASSIC CHOCOLATE.
IT WAS VERY DELICIOUS.
HOWEVER, IT'S NOT THE FLAVOR I REMEMBER.
KATHUNK
WOW...
IT'S SNOWING!!

IF ANYTHING COMES UP, CONTACT ME.
I WILL HELP YOU NO MATTER WHAT.
HM...?
BE CAREFUL.
THAT STALKER MIGHT STILL BE FOLLOWING YOU.
GOOD-BYE FOR NOW.
.....
.....HUH...?

AND I LIKED THE SNOW.
AND THE WINTER AIR.
BECAUSE I CAN BE WITH TSUBAME.
I REALIZED THAT I REALLY LIKED THIS CITY.
IT WAS THE FIRST TIME I EVER THOUGHT...
WE WALKED AND WALKED, AND I DIDN'T GET TIRED AT ALL.
WE TALKED ABOUT WHEN WE WERE KIDS, WE TALKED ABOUT OUR HOBBIES...
WE WEREN'T TALKING ABOUT THE "PAST LIFE" --WE WERE TALKING ABOUT OUR TRUE SELVES.
WE LEFT THE CAFE...
Hey Kanoko, have you ever made an igloo?
What? Um... no?
AND WALKED, AND TALKED TOGETHER.
It was always my dream to live in an igloo...
It's the little window hole that makes it so interesting.

SWOOOOSH
WH-WHERE ARE WE?
YEAH, WE, UH, NEVER FIGURED OUT WHERE WE WANTED TO GO, SO...
HA HA
WE WERE JUST WALKING AND WALKING AND WALKING AND...
Oh, man.
...WHERE'S MY CELL PHONE?
I WAS KEEPING IT IN MY COAT POCKET ...
GOOD IDEA.
ND... WAIT...
UM, MAYBE WE SHOULD JUST HEAD BACK THE WAY WE CAME.

YES... MAYBE...
...IF I'M WITH THIS GUY...
...MAYBE...
...I CAN WALK ANYWHERE.
SHOONK
GO, WHAT SHOULD WE--
-Ah ah ah!
...WHA.....
YOW, YOW, YOWCH !!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT ?
OH, NO!! KANOKO!!
KYAAA!!
FWUMP

YOU KNOW, THE FIRST TIME I RODE THE LIFT UP A MOUNTAIN ON A SKI TRIP...
IT WAS... A LOT HIGHER THAN THIS, I GUESS.
MAN... THIS REMINDS ME OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GYM CLASS...
You know, like, a three-legged race or something.
SLIP SLIP...
NO, TSUBAME, NOT THAT WAY...
DEE DEE DOO DOO DEE
IT'S PROBABLY JUST FROM ARA AGAIN...
MAN! NOW MY PHONE IS RINGING !!
NO, WAIT, THAT'S A TEXT ...
DEE DOO DOO !!

TSU-- TSU- Are you all right?! BAME ?!
SLAM
!!
ALL RIGHT, I'LL GO DOWN AND GET IT...
slip
MAN, IT SLID ALL THE WAY DOWN THERE ?!
SPIN SPIN
OH!! THERE IT IS!!
Owowow...
I DIDN'T REALIZE IT WAS FROZEN SOLID ...
AND IT'S PRETTY STEEP, TOO.
ANYWAY! DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT! I'LL GO GET YOUR PHONE!
NO, NO! I CAN GET IT MYSELF !!
OH, HOW THE WINTER HOLIDAYS THRILL ME!
AND, WELL...I'M WEARING HIGH-HEEL BOOTS.
For, uh, the first time EVER.
AND MY SHOES ARE REALLY SMOOTH ...

WELL!!
HM! WHY THE HECK ARE YOU TEXTING THAT GUY?
BECAUSE HE'S A PSYCHO-JERK!!
WELL, THEN DON'T TEXT HIM ANYMORE!!
TEXT... UH...
ME INSTEAD!!

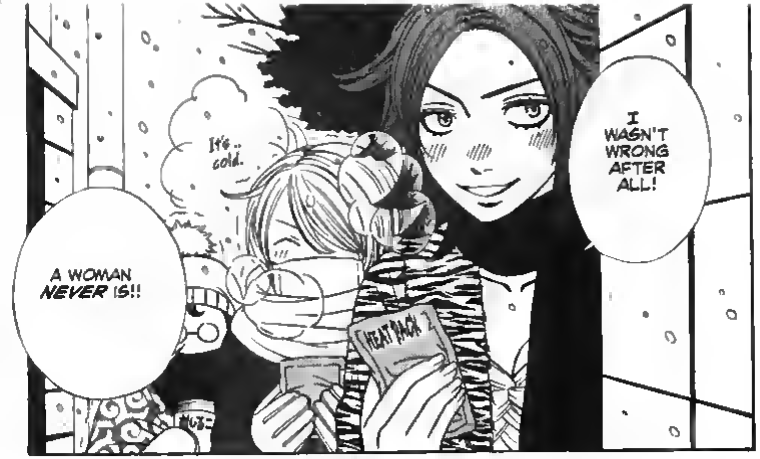
SWOOOSH
TSUBAME!
SRAB!
LASH
YOU KNOW, THAT'S MY PHONE!!
YOU SHOULD NOT--!!
SEE HOW YOU LIKE THIS ANSWER!!
LET'S JUST SEND HIM A LITTLE REPLY!!
Click Click
TSUBAME!!
HEY!!
WHAT THE HECK!! IT REALLY IS FROM ARATA!!
HE SAYS... "WHAT ARE YOU DOING RIGHT NOW?" THE NERVE!!

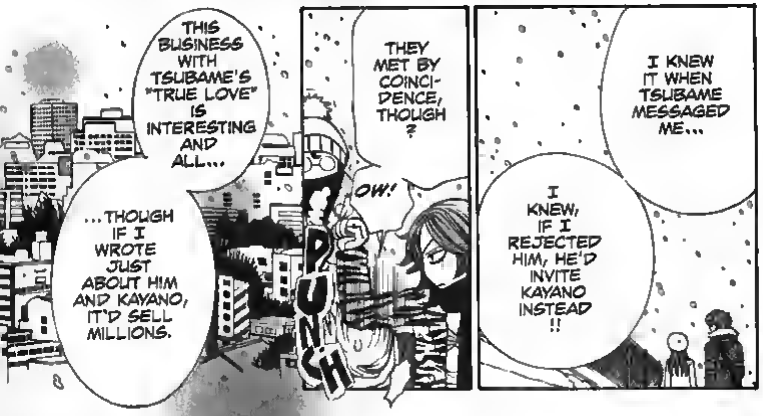
I LOVE YOU.
KANOKO, I... YOU KNOW ...
I MEAN ...

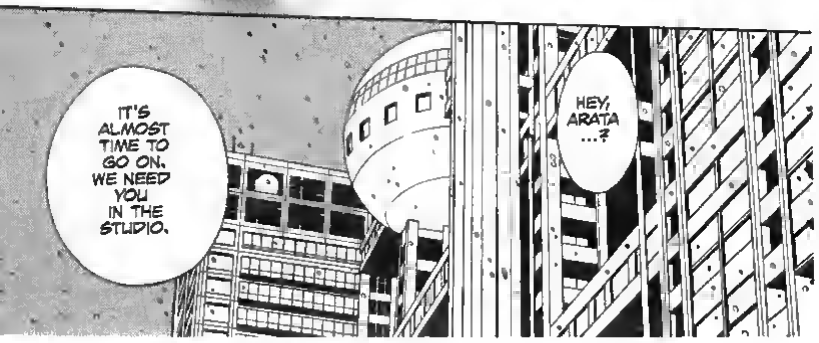
Well, there were a COUPLE of reasons, I guess..
TSUBAME, YOU ALREADY HAVE A LOT OF GIRLFRIENDS, U THOUGH, RIGHT?
WELL, YEAH !! AND... NO !!
... TEXT ... YOU ?
WELL! I WANT TO TALK TO YOU MORE THAN ARATA DOES!
AND I...I DON'T HAVE ANYONE ELSE TO TALK TO DURING WINTER BREAK !!
AND I MEAN, WHY HAVEN'T YOU GIVEN ME YOUR TEXT ADDRESS ALREADY, ANYWAY ?
I WANT TO TALK TO YOU!! And those other girls are all SCARY!!!
...EH...
...YOU MEAN...

WAIT A SEC-OND ...
I ALMOST GOT IT.
FWOOSH
RRRRIP
.....HEY!! ARE YOU REALLY ..
COME ON!! COME ON!!
...MAY I TELL YOU MY TEXT ADDRESS ?
...OKAY. SORRY. HERE, YOUR PHONE.

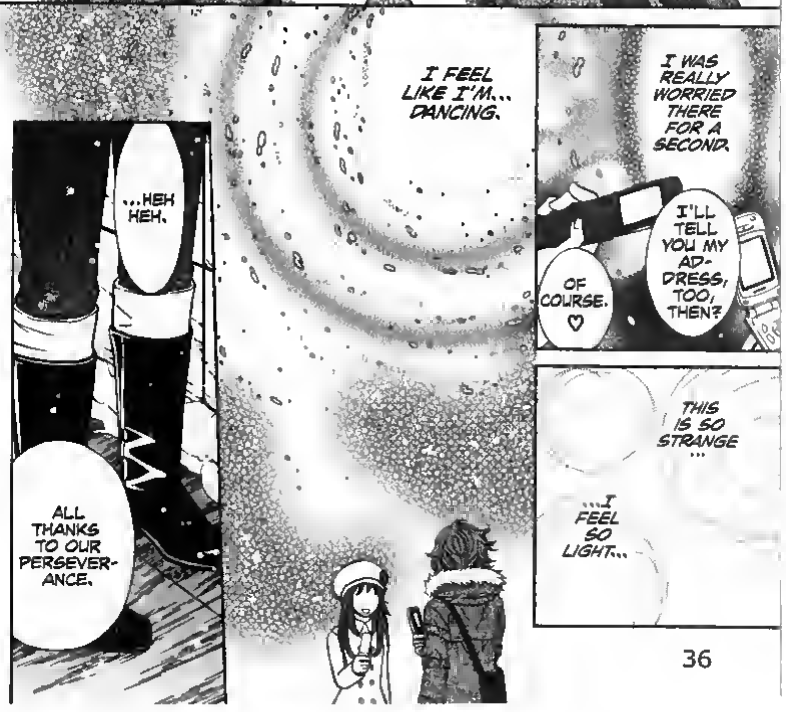
ZZZAP!!
IT'S ALL BECAUSE I LOVE KANOKO !!
THAT'S THIS STRANGE FEELING I'VE BEEN FEELING ...
YES... THAT'S RIGHT ...
Look out!! Tsubame's synapses are connecting!
ZZZAP!!
I LOVE HER ?
...HUH?
I...I LOVE KANOKO ?
...TSUBAME?
SHOOM
SHOOM
I...love her!
YOU WERE... HITTING YOURSELF IN THE HEAD.


I WASN'T WRONG AFTER ALL!
It's cold.
A WOMAN NEVER IS!!
HEAT PACK


I KNEW IT WHEN TSUBAME MESSAGED ME...
I KNEW, IF I REJECTED HIM, HE'D INVITE KAYANO INSTEAD !!
THEY MET BY COINCI-DENCE, THOUGH ?
OW!
THIS BUSINESS WITH TSUBAME'S "TRUE LOVE" IS INTERESTING AND ALL...
...THOUGH IF I WROTE JUST ABOUT HIM AND KAYANO, IT'D SELL MILLIONS.
PUNCH


HEY, ARATA ...?
IT'S ALMOST TIME TO GO ON. WE NEED YOU IN THE STUDIO.

JUMP
...SURE.


I FEEL LIKE I'M... DANCING.
...HEH HEH.
ALL THANKS TO OUR PERSEVER-ANCE.
I WAS REALLY WORRIED THERE FOR A SECOND.
I'LL TELL YOU MY AD-DRESS, TOO, THEN?
OF COURSE. ♡
THIS IS SO STRANGE ...
...I FEEL SO LIGHT...

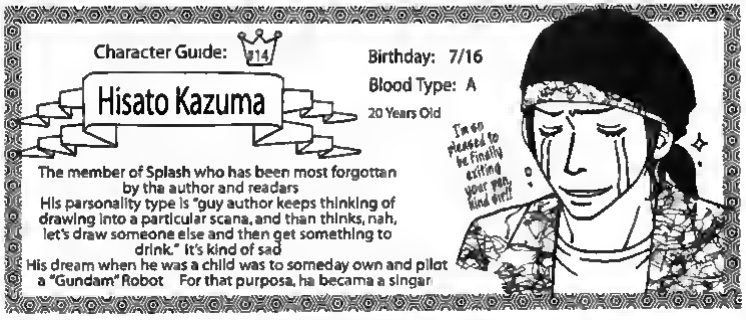
A MOVIE?
WELL, THEN! LET'S GO SEE IT TOGETHER!
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, THERE WAS A MOVIE I WANTED TO GO SEE.
I'LL LOOK UP THE SHOW-TIMES.
CHAPTER 17
Next up is "Splash!!"
OH, THERE'S BEEN SOMETHING I CAN TELL YOU THAT MUCH!!
SO, ARATA, ANYTHING INTERESTING HAPPENING WITH YOU LATELY?
Mike's room
I GOT SOME CRAZY PHOTO MESSAGED TO MY PHONE
SOME UGLY KID'S FACE I WAS LAUGHIN FOR, LIKE A HALF AN HOUR !!
IT WAS SO FUNNY I SENT IT TO EVERYONE I KNOW!!
BAM

...ARATA?
[MESSAGE TEXT]
.....WELL, WELL.
Tsubame.
LOOKS LIKE THE BOY WANTS TO TUSSLE WITH ME
HE'S GOT PLENTY OF GRIT!! I'M IMPRESSED, REALLY I AM!!
CHAPTER 16 / END

OYAYUBIHIME
INFINITY
CHAPTER 17
The Pursuit Scene, in Snow

I, UM, I GUESS I AM!!
YOU'RE MY FRIEND, RIGHT... ...KAZAMI-KUN?!
DOO
OON

AHEM. YOU, UM... BROUGHT THE...THING WE TALKED ABOUT?
I recommend the broiled eel!!
MAN, YOUR FRIENDS ARE A BUNCH OF MEANIES!!
JUST WHEN I WAS THINKING OF GETTING TO KNOW THEM BETTER, JUST, TALKING TO THEM STRAIGHT FROM THE HEART...


Character Guide:
214
Hisato Kazuma
Birthday: 7/16
Blood Type: A
20 Years Old
The member of Splash who has been most forgottan by tha author and readars
His parsonality type is "guy author keeps thinking of drawing into a particular scana, and than thinks, nah, let's draw someone else and then get something to drink." It's kind of sad
His dream when he was a child was to someday own and pilot a "Gundam" Robot For that purposa, ha becama a singar
I'm so pleased to be finally getting your real, kind self!

IT SEEMS LIKE HE'S TRYING SOME REAL UNDER-HANDED STUFF WITH KANOKO.
HE EVEN TEXTED ME YESTERDAY ...
I REALLY DON'T LIKE THAT GUY
I WILL NOT LET HIM GET ANY CLOSER TO KANOKO !!
SIR, YES, SIR !!
YOU GUYS, NO MATTER WHAT HE ASKS, DON'T TELL HIM ANYTHING!!
...HEY THERE.
I KNEW YOU'D BE ABLE TO MAKE IT.

...SO, WHERE WERE WE?
YES, I REMEMBER-- YOU WERE ABOUT TO TELL ME ABOUT HOW YOU GUYS ALL KNEW ABOUT THE "PAST LIFE" AND "AGEMAKI" AND ALL THAT, RIGHT?
...
"SUKE-ROKU" ...?
TSUBAME'S "PAST LIFE..."
WHAT THE--?!
WHAT THE HECK DID YOU CALL ME ALL THE WAY--
ARATA?
WELL, WELL! THERE HE IS!
THE MAN OF THE HOUR!
HEY, HEY, WHAT'S GOING ON HERE--
Tatsu!! You're looking especially boyish today!!
MEET YOUR NUMBER-ONE FAN.
EXXXXX CELLENT_

WAIT A MINUTE... "SUKE-ROKU?"
SUKEROKU IS THE GUY WHO COPIED MY BUTTERFLY TATTOO IN THE PAST LIFE... I THINK?
SO HE REMEMBERS HIS PAST LIFE, TOO. HUH?
SO, THAT'S WHY NOBODY WAS [redacted] WHEN I TALKED ABOUT THE "PAST LIFE?"
Grrrr... How irritating! He's the original!
...HM?
SO, I WONDER WHAT KIND OF PERSON HE WAS?
Yes!
ME AND THE, UH, OTHER CLUB MEMBERS WERE TRYING TO HELP HIM.
TSUBAME IS SEARCHING FOR HIS TRUE LOVE. HE SAYS THEY COMMITTED SUICIDE TOGETHER IN THE PAST LIFE.
OH, YOU MEAN, THE BIRTH-MARK?
WELL, TSUBAME'S GOT ONE, TOO.
YOU ARE KID-DING!?
NO WAY!!

I MEAN, IT SEEMS LIKE HE REALLY IS LOOKING FOR THE BIRTH-MARKS ...
DOESN'T THAT SEEM A LITTLE INCON-SISTENT, THEN?
...YEAH...
Is he really searching?
THE NEXT ONE HE FOUND, AFTER MIKE I MEAN, WAS KANOKO ...
... AND IT TURNED OUT KANOKO WASN'T THE RIGHT ONE, EITHER ...
I GUESS TSUBAME WASN'T MY ENEMY AFTER ALL, HUH?
...I THINK I GOT IT ALL NOW.
... YES ... YES ...
BECAUSE THE ONLY ONE OF US WHO'D EVER KNOWN KANOKO IN THE PAST LIFE...
...WAS ME.

YOU KNOW, THE BEAST-MAN.
YOU KNOW, THE SCARY-FACED DUDE WITH THE FEATHERY HAIR?
WHICH PERSON?
YOU MEAN MIKE-SAN?
...OH!!
I GET IT-- EVEN IF THEY'RE REBORN AS THE SAME GENDER, THE TRUE LOVERS WILL BE DRAWN TOGETHER?
IT TURNED OUT THAT MIKE WASN'T THE ONE TSUBAME WAS SEARCHING FOR.
SO TSUBAME IS STILL SEARCHING FOR HIS TRUE LOVE EVEN NOW.
YEAH, EXCEPT, UH... It's not quite...
UM... I...
I SAW THAT GUY.. WITH TSUBA-ME...
THEY WERE... WALKING AROUND THE GARDEN BEHIND THE SCHOOL TOGETHER.
IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.

I WONDER HOW WE LOOK...
DOES EVERYONE THINK WE'RE A COUPLE?
ME AND TSUBAME...
I GUESS WE ARE ON A "DATE"...
I MEAN, WE'RE... NOT A COUPLE, OF COURSE.
STILL, I MEAN.
IS THIS SEAT TAKEN?
NO, GO RIGHT--
A HALF A YEAR AGO I WOULD HAVE NEVER IMAGINED ...

NO, NO, REALLY!
I'M THE ONE WHO INVITED YOU.
NO, NO, I SAID I'D PAY FOR THE TICKETS!
NO, I HAVE MONEY --
OH... WELL. TH-THANKS.
HERE YOU ARE--TWO STUDENT TICKETS.
Student
HOWL'S MOVING CASTLE
THIS IS, UM, OFFICIALLY A "DATE," THEN?
SO HE CALLED ME ON THE PHONE, AND INVITED ME TO A MOVIE. AND HERE WE ARE.
NOW I'M SUDDENLY NERVOUS.
SPRING

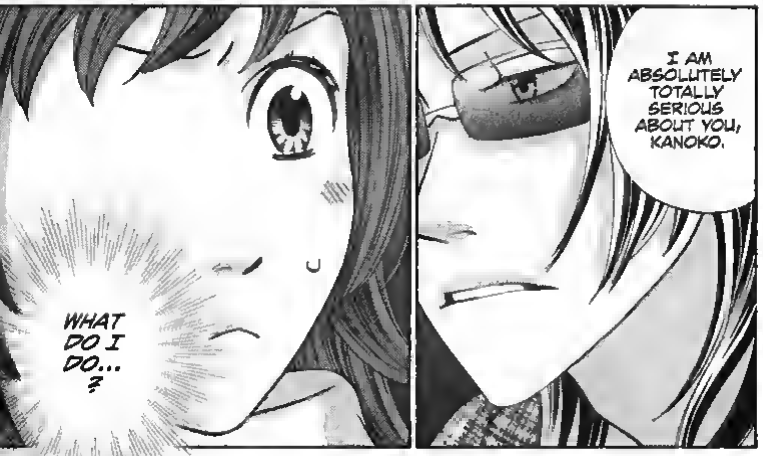
CHOKE
HEYYYYYY!!
WHAT A COIN-CIDENCE! HIYA, KANOKO!!
WHAT THE-- WHY THE HECK ARE YOU HERE, HUH?
NOT SO LOUD! I DON'T WANT THE OTHER PEOPLE TO NOTICE ME!
ANYWAY, GUYS!!
I JUST WANTED TO COME SEE THIS MOVIE, HONEST!!
THIS MUST BE FATE...!!
UH... UH...
KANOKO, WE'RE LEAVING!!
I MEAN-- YOU THERE, GUY, SIT SOMEWHERE ELSE!!
I SAAAID JUST DON'T MIND ME!!
OOH, OOH, LOOK-- THE MOVIE'S STARTING!!
ANYWAY, DON'T YOU TWO MIND ME!!

THIS IS NOT GOOD.
WHY THE HECK DO WE HAVE TO WATCH THE MOVIE TOGETHER?
DARN IT.
OKAY, AS SOON AS THE MOVIE IS OVER, WE WILL SPRINT OUT OF HERE.
GRR GRR GRR
THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE MY FIRST DATE WITH KANOKO.
SWOOOSH
SHHHH
PLEASE TURN OFF YOUR CEL-LULAR PHONES --
SPRINT
HEY HEY HEY!!
GRRR
Pop
10 MINUTES LATER...
GRR GRR GRR
THE END
30 MINUTES LATER...
ALMOST OVER...

SO!! SHALL WE GO ?!
WA!
—TSUBAME?!
YOU'VE GOT THE WRONG AGEMAKI ...
HEY!!
YOU'D BETTER KEEP YOUR HANDS OFF MY GIRL.

YOU SEE, TODAY IS MY FIRST DAY OFF IN A LONG TIME.
I GOT THE DAY OFF SO WE COULD HAVE A FANTASTIC DATE TOGETHER, KANOKO!
HE'S KIDNAPPED HER!! I THINK!!
HAHAHAHA!
TOO SLOW, TSUBAME!!
HEY!! THAT'S... MEAN!!
I'M THE ONE WHO WAS SUPPOSED TO BE ON A DATE WITH KANOKO!!
NOW, PLAY FAIR, TSUBAME.
I KNOW EVERYTHING. I KNOW KANOKO'S NOT THE TRUE LOVE YOU'RE LOOKING FOR.

SO LISTEN AND LISTEN GOOD:
I'M SERIOUS ABOUT YOU.


WHAT DO I DO...?
I AM ABSOLUTELY TOTALLY SERIOUS ABOUT YOU, KANOKO.

I DON'T RECALL YOU AND ME EVER SIGNING A CONTRACT, BUDDY!!
WHAT THE HECK DO YOU MEAN "KEEP YOUR HANDS OFF MY GIRL?"
THERE'S SOMEONE I WANT YOU TO MEET--
HEY, STOP!
HEY, THERE!! WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING!!
YOU'RE A TOUGH NUT TO CRACK.
ALL RIGHT THEN. LET ME TELL YOU THE TRUTH.
I KNOW TSUBAME'S SEARCHING FOR ANOTHER GIRL.
.....!!

THE TEAM-UP OF THE CENTURY
...WE WILL RESCUE KANOKO !!
WITH OUR POWERS COMBINED .....
ROGER!!
Love is
KANOKO?!
WHAT THE HECK DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
OW... HUH ?
...HELLO?
BRRRRING

GET IN THE CAR!! QUICK!!
Poor guy's in shock!!
THAT ARATA HAS ABSCONDED WITH KANOKO !!
...TSU-BAME..
YO! TSUBA-ME!!
I WILL HELP YOU, TSU-BAME.
WE HAVE TO SNAP ARATA OUT OF HIS FOOLISH CRUSH ASAP!!
KAZAMI FED HIM THE INFORMATION !!
That dirty rat!!
I'VE GOT KAMEKO THOR-OUGHLY PUNISHING HIM AT THE MOMENT.
OH...?
KIKI, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE ?
ARATA GOT YOU!!

HAHAHA
CATCH ME IF YOU CAN !!
MAN!! YOU GUYS ARE GOOD !!
Ladies and gentlemen, Hirata, of Eglantine. Here by request!
The speed limit? ...
UH--
CAN YOU SEE ARATA'S CAR YET?
GO FASTER!! COME ON!!
ZHOOM
AW, MAN, ARATA'S DRIVEN ONTO THE HIGHWAY ...
DAMMIT!
WHERE DOES HE THINK HE'S GOING?

ARATA!! IT'S ME!!
PLEASE, I WANT YOU TO STOP THE CAR !!
Meeeep
I... TRIED THAT AL-READY ...
Why the heck are you here, Kiki!?
IS THAT A GIRL YOU'RE TALKING TO? IS IT THAT KIKI GIRL? OH, MAN. SHE'LL NEVER FIND US.
WE SAW YOU GET IN ARATA'S CAR!!
WE'RE FOLLOWING YOU! GET ARATA TO PULL OVER!!
I'VE BEEN RATTED!!
I THOUGHT ONLY OUR MANAGER COULD USE THAT SERVICE ?
I JUST ASKED OUR MANAGER FOR YOUR I.D. NUMBER.
WELL I'LL BE!!
I'M TRACKING YOUR CELLULAR PHONE ON G.P.S. OVER HERE!!

Rest Stop
MAYBE WE SHOULD GIVE UP...
The highway tolls really add up...
.....
YOU ARE USE-LESS !!
I think I'm gonna cry!!
OH MY GOD THAT WAS SO SCARY !!
GYAAA GYAAAH
MAYBE I SHOULD CHECK THEM ON THE G.P.S. AGAIN...
I MEAN REALLY FRUS-TRATING !!
"SHRIEK" THIS IS SO FRUS-TRATING !!
.....
WHERE... ARE WE?

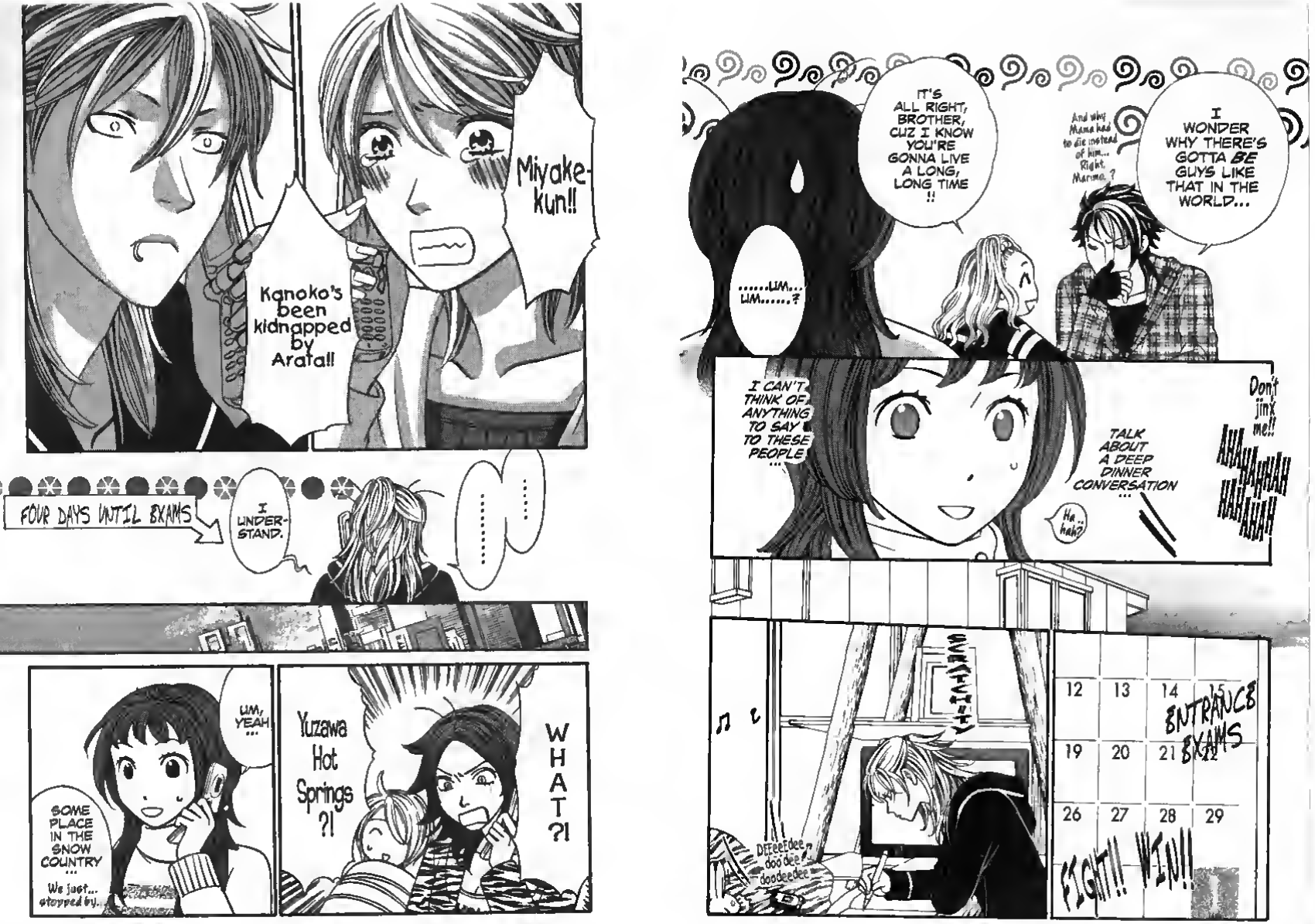
KYAAAAAA!!
slow down!! please?
CAN YOU FEEL THE RAGE OF MY NITRO BOOSTERS KANOKO?
CRUNCH CRUNCH
HEY!! I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU TO SPEED UP?!
HOW MUCH FARTHER ARE THEY GOING TO GO ...ALL THE WAY TO NIIGATA?
YOU FOOOOL!!!
SPEND A LITTLE MORE MONEY ON TIRES !!
I CAN'T!! I TOTALLY JUST GOT MY LICENSE!! AND...AND... AND THESE TIRES AREN'T SUITABLE FOR SNOW!!
NYAHAHAH!!
OOO

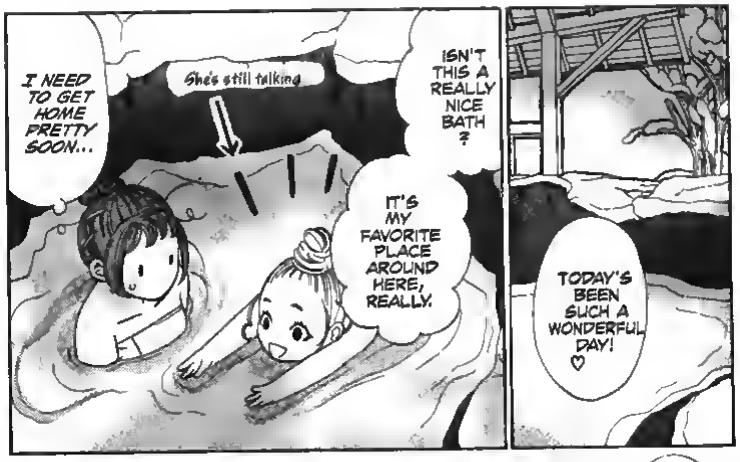
HUH?
WELCOME TO THE YUZAWA HOT SPRINGS !!
"Upon exiting the tunnel, it was Snow Country."
-- From Yasunari Kawabata's novel "Snow Country."
...THIS IS A HOT SPRING INN.
LIKE, WHERE GEISHAS AND PLAYBOYS HUNG OUT IN THE OLD DAYS.
C'MON, KANOKO, LET'S GO INSIDE.
.....

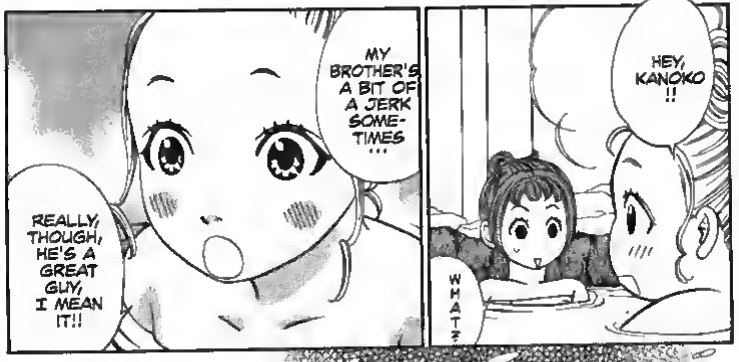
HUG
BROTHER!! YOU'RE BACK!!
ALL RIGHT. UM. GOODBYE, THEN.
NEVER!!!!
SPIN
Ahhh.
YOU'RE PLUCKY AS EVER, MARIMO !!
.....HM?
WE ARE PLEASED AS EVER TO HAVE YOU, ARATA-SAN.
YOU CAME ALL THE WAY FROM TOKYO? WELCOME, WELCOME ...
WAIT, HOW DID WE GET INTO THIS ROOM HERE?

OUR MOM DIED WHEN THIS ONE WAS STILL LITTLE...
OH, YEAH, WELL, OUR FAMILY SITUATION...
Well, first of all, you know we're from out west...
YOUR... SISTER?
YOU SAY YOU... "KEEP" HER HERE?
I'M SORRY...
Maybe I shouldn't have asked..
YEAH, OUR MAMA WAS A REGULAR SAINT. OUR DADDY, THOUGH...
WE AIN'T SEEN OUR DADDY IN FOREVER, SEE.
HE DRANK A LOT, SPENT UP ALL OF OUR MONEY, LEFT SOME CRAZY DEBTS, AND RAN OFF WITH SOME WOMAN.
I WONDER WHY MAMA EVER MARRIED THAT GUY!!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!!
OUR MAMA WAS SO PRETTY THEY LET HER INTO HEAVEN RIGHT AWAY.
AND THEN THEY SAID, "WE'LL MAKE YOUR DAUGHTER GROW UP AS PRETTY AS YOU!!"

BROTHER!!
IS THIS HER? IS THIS THE GIRL YOU SAID YOU WERE LOOKIN' FOR?
A RELATIVE OF MINE MANAGES THIS PLACE.
SO I KEEP MY LITTLE SIS HERE, FOR THE TIME BEING.
HEY, YOU!!
MY BROTHER CAN BE A BIT OF A SHAMELESS PUNK SOMETIMES, THOUGH I RECKON THERE'S PLENTY OF GOOD STUFF ABOUT ♡ HIM, SO DON'T HESITATE TO WHACK HIM IF HE GETS OUT OF CONTROL, ALL RIGHT?
Just don't hit him in his pretty face- he needs that to make money.
I'm so pleased to meet you!
IT SEEMS LIKE THEY HAVE A REALLY GOOD RELATIONSHIP..
I'm Arata's little sister Marimo!!


I WONDER WHY THERE'S GOTTA BE GUYS LIKE THAT IN THE WORLD...
And why Mama had to die instead of him... Right, Marima...?
IT'S ALL RIGHT, BROTHER, CUZ I KNOW YOU'RE GONNA LIVE A LONG, LONG TIME !!
.....UM... UM.....?
I CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING TO SAY TO THESE PEOPLE...
TALK ABOUT A DEEP DINNER CONVERSATION...
Ha...hah?
Don't jinx me!!
AHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAH
SHIVER
DEEEEdee doodee doodeedee
12 13 14 15 ENTRANCE EXAMS
19 20 21 22
26 27 28 29
FIGHT!! WIN!!
66
Miyake-kun!!
Kanoko's been kidnapped by Arata!!
FOUR DAYS UNTIL EXAMS
I UNDER-STAND.
.....
UM, YEAH...
SOME PLACE IN THE SNOW COUNTRY...
We just... stopped by.
Yuzawa Hot Springs ?!
WHAT?!
67


I NEED TO GET HOME PRETTY SOON...
She's still talking
ISN'T THIS A REALLY NICE BATH ?
IT'S MY FAVORITE PLACE AROUND HERE, REALLY.
TODAY'S BEEN SUCH A WONDERFUL DAY! ♡


REALLY, THOUGH, HE'S A GREAT GUY, I MEAN IT!!
MY BROTHER'S A BIT OF A JERK SOME-TIMES ...
WHAT?
HEY, KANOKO !!

SO MY BIG BROTHER WORKED HARD TO GET ME BETTER !!
SEE, A LONG TIME AGO I WAS REAL SICK...

KANOKO, LISTEN TO THIS LITTLE THREE-ACT PLAY I WROTE FOR THESE PUPPETS !!
UM... SURE... UH... LATER, KIKI--
click
This cow is from Kobe. Cows are SO tasty in Kobe!!
Do you wanna be the cow, or the frog?. Have you ever eaten froglegs?
SO, UM, I'M GONNA ...
I'LL, UH, BE OKAY FOR A WHILE, I'LL TRY TO BE BACK SOON.
EEEP
WHO THE HECK WAS THAT LITTLE GIRL ??!!
Kanoko, come home!! Arata, we will DESTROY you!!
WAS IT... ARATA'S ILLEGIT-IMATE CHILD ?!

HERE, I COOKED YOU SOME DINNER.
GO AHEAD NOW, EAT UP.
.....
SORRY ABOUT HER--SHE CAN TALK UP A STORM.
SEEMS LIKE SHE REALLY LIKES YOU, KANOKO.
I'M... SORRY.
IT SEEMS LIKE I MISUNDER-STOOD YOU.
...MAYBE...

SO I WAS THINKIN'--
IT'S REALLY GREAT THAT HE FOUND SOMEONE LIKE YOU.
AND OUR DADDY'S DEBT...
HE SAYS HE CAN PAY IT ALL OFF IN TWO MORE YEARS?
SO, THAT'S WHY HE WORKS SO HARD. HE AIN'T EVEN GOT TIME TO SLEEP, MOST OF THE TIME!!

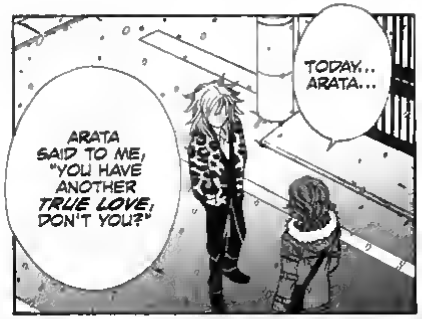
HM?
WHAT'S WRONG?
AH.
I JUST... REMEMBERED SOMETHING. FROM THE PAST.
!!
.....
THE "PAST?"
DID I...SAY SOME-THING LIKE THAT?
COME ON, YOU CAN TELL ME!!

AW.
NOW WHAT DID MARIMO TELL YOU, HM?
I'M JUST ...
THAT AIN'T NOTHING, I SWEAR.
I'M JUST DOIN' WHAT I WANT TO DO.
DOING WHAT I HAVE TO DO, FOR NOW.
YOU SEE, MY DREAM ...
...IS SO MUCH BIGGER THAN ALL THIS.

THIS FEELS NICE.
HE LET "MY" CHILD...
AGEMAKI, SOMEDAY, I WILL SHOW YOU MY COUNTRY.
FULL OF GOOD PEOPLE, AND GOOD LAND... *YAWN*
YES, EVEN IN THE "PAST" ...
HE WAS A VERY IMPORTANT MAN...
BE FREE...

...HEY.
CAN I BORROW YOUR LAP?
LIKE... WE USED TO?

...I...
I JUST...
I...I'M IN LOVE WITH KANOKO. RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW.
...WHAT DO I REALLY WANT?
THAT'S... PRETTY AWFUL OF ME, HUH?


TODAY... ARATA...
ARATA SAID TO ME, "YOU HAVE ANOTHER TRUE LOVE, DON'T YOU?"

AND HE'S... RIGHT.

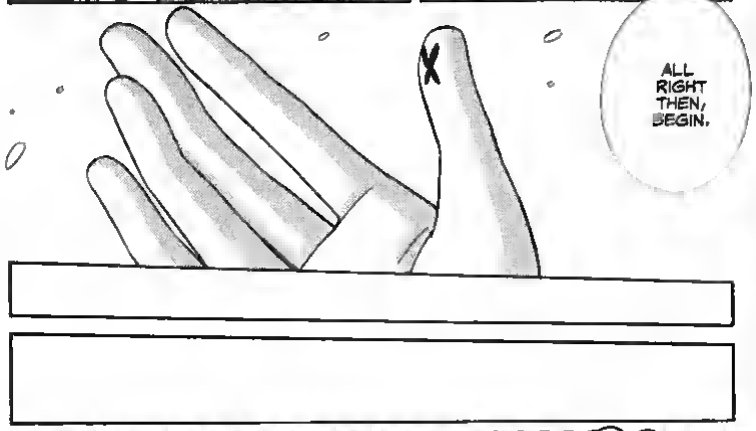
I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR AGEMAKI FOR SO LONG...
ALWAYS BELIEVING I'D MEET HER...
...ND YET...

AND YET...
...WHY...

OYAYUBIHIME
INFINITY
CHAPTER 18
Where the Heart Goes

...WHY...
...WHY DIDN'T "I"...
...WHY DID I GO WITH THIS MAN WHEN HE ASKED ME TO?
CHAPTER 17/END

KANOKO
ARE YOU POSITIVE NOTHING HAPPENED BETWEEN YOU AND ARATA THE OTHER DAY?
BURN BABY BURN
BIG BOOM
FOR THE LAST TIME, YES!!
He's a heck of a driver, though.
WE WENT TO NIIGATA IN HIS CAR, AND THEN I CAME BACK THE SAME DAY!
It was a lot of driving.
ALL WE DID WAS GO TO NIIGATA AND MEET HIS LITTLE SISTER.
WELL, WELL.
I wonder if he went to his exams looking how he usually does?
YEAH, WE WERE ALL BOTHERING HIM SO MUCH.
AHH, HE'LL BE ALL RIGHT.
MORE IMPORTANTLY...



Character Guide #15

Sachiyo Azuma

Birthday: 2/23
Blood Type: O
* Age Unknown

* She's Tsubame's apartment's landlady. She is also known as the "Iron Lady," because she looks like a lion.
Her husband died many years ago, so she lives alone.
Her two sons are attending college overseas.
She worries a lot about Tsubame, and sometimes goes over to check on him.
Her hobbies include watching suspense movies on TV.

HM-
HM!!
KANOKO SHOULDN'T HANG OUT WITH SUCH A DUMB GUY.
I'M TELLING YOU, I FOR ONE AM AGAINST IT!
WHA--WHAT THE HECK?
Aw, he's so cute when he's angry.
SO IMMATURE.
THERE'S BEEN THIS WEIRD... DISTANCE BETWEEN ME AND TSUBAME...
...EVER SINCE OUR DATE THE OTHER DAY. (PROBABLY BECAUSE ARATA INTERRUPTED US AND KIND OF KIDNAPPED ME.)
MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE... REACTED A LITTLE DIFFERENTLY?
TSUBAME-- YEAH, HE COULD HAVE FOUGHT FOR ME? I GUESS?

KANOKO.
YOU'VE BECOME SO... FEMININE ALL OF A SUDDEN.
WHA--?
REALLY, ARE YOU SAYING YOU DON'T EVEN LIKE ARATA A LITTLE BIT?
.....
THERE'S NOTHING RADIATING.
THERE ARE PHEROMONES JUST RADIATING OUT OF YOU.
THEY'RE RADIATING, ALL RIGHT!!
I can SEE them.
DON'T LET ARATA STEAL HER AWAY FROM YOU!
DON'T LET ARATA STEAL HER AWAY FROM YOU!
GRRR
....WELL.
OH! TSUBAME!
!!
OF COURSE SHE DOESN'T!

STILL...
IS THAT WHAT I THINK "NOW" ?

HEY, MIKE !! OPEN UP!!
Hugg
What do I doooooo ?!
AND THAT ARATA GUY IS TRYING TO TAKE KANOKO AWAY FROM ME...
WHAT DO I DOOOOOO?!
TODAY I SAID SOME TERRIBLE THINGS TO KANOKO ...
AND... I'M STILL LOOKING FOR "AGEMAKI" ...

MAN ... I THINK ...
I THINK I KINDA LIKE HIM. JUST A LITTLE BIT.
AND, WELL...
IT'S NO SECRET THAT HE'S BEEN... LONGING FOR ME...
EVER SINCE I WAS "AGEMAKI."
...THOUGH, HONESTLY, EVER SINCE THAT DAY...
...I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT ARATA A LOT.
YEAH, I KNOW. HE'S KIND OF OVER-BEARING AND OVER-CHEERFUL ...
I HAVE THIS... RESPECT FOR HIM, THOUGH

...I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE GOING TO COLLEGE ...
SLAP
WAH--
...GO HOME.
DON'T COME HERE AGAIN.
...I KINDA WOULDN'T MIND IF YOU FAIL THE EXAM...

KANOKO-OOO... AHHH...
...I THINK SHE MIGHT HATE ME NOW...
NO, OF COURSE SHE DOES. ARATA'S SO MUCH (A LITTLE BIT) MORE MANLY THAN ME ...
.....
.....
Come on, tell me I'm cooler than him or something!!
MIKE-CHAN !!
WHY ARE YOU IGNORING ME?!
SOLVE YOUR OWN PROBLEMS.
YOU'RE NOT A CHILD ANYMORE.
...MIKE-CHAN ...
I HEARD YOU DID GOOD ON THE EXAMS...?
YOU'RE GOING TO HOKKAIDO SOON FOR THE SECOND ROUND OF EXAMS?

AND SOON MIKE'S GOING FAR AWAY...
IT TOOK ME SO LONG TO REALIZE IT.
HE ALWAYS GAVE ME SO MUCH...
I SAID SOMETHING STUPID TO MIKE...
...AND TO KANOKO, TOO...
EVEN THOUGH I LIKE THEM BOTH SO MUCH...
NO WAY...
MY PHONE IS BROKEN!!
...I CAN'T CALL ANYBODY NOW...
WHAT DO I DO...
SOLVE YOUR OWN PROBLEMS.
"YOU'RE NOT A CHILD ANYMORE."
.....
...HE'S RIGHT

WHA--?
SOR-
...SORRY?
I WAS JUST...
I WAS JOKING! REALLY, MIKE...
BA
I THINK I MADE MIKE-CHAN ANGRY..
NOK NOK
SORRY!!
I SAID SORRY!!
...MIKE?
...WHAT...WHAT DO I DO?
I KNOW! I'LL CALL HIM!!
CLICK
...HUH?
MY PHONE...
...THE SCREEN'S BUSTED!?
CLICK CLICK

THANKS for READING.

By: Yuki Fujisaka

So, it looks like this manga has continued to Volume 4, hmm? I've mostly gotten used to drawing all of the charactersby now.

It's too bad I can't draw the characters I really want to draw. I really wish I could make the guys look cooler...
I guess I need a bit more practice!!

Anyway, if you will all bear with me, I'll see what I can do! Watch me transform, ladies and gentlemen! My friend told me recently, "Hey, this *Oyayubihime Infinity* is starting to actually become a ShoujoManga!!"

MY CAT HAS GOOD TASTE

I bought some Godiva chocolate.
Here Button!! Look!! It's Godiva chocolate!! You can't eat it, though, sorry!...
CHO
MP
DASH
Button! Give me back my Godiva chocolate!!

THE ONLY CHOCOLATE HE ATE AND RAN AWAY WITH WAS GODIVA.

...ALL BY MYSELF...
IS THERE ANY-THING.....
...I CAN DO...
ALL RIGHT, FROM THE TOP!!
CHOO CHOO!!
THE TASTY NEW CHOOLKIN ICE, FROM MOJINAGA!!
YOU CAN BE A CHOOLKIN TOO!!

CLICK
THERE HAS TO BE SOMETHING I CAN DO...
EVEN THOUGH I NEED THEM BOTH SO MUCH...
THEY ARE JUST...
WHAT CAN I DO TO MAKE THEM FORGIVE ME...

I turn my back on her for one minute.
WHAT THE HECK ...
YEP!
YOU KNOW, HE TURNED OUT TO BE A REALLY, REALLY SWEET GUY!!
I totally underestimated him!
YOU MEAN, MIKE?
Maybe you can give some poisoned chocolate to Arata?
Gulp... seriously?
WELL, I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT ...
HMM...
KANOKO, ARE YOU GONNA GIVE CHOCOLATE TO ANYBODY?
.....

KANOKO!!!!!!
I'm done!!
ME NEITHER!!
HA HA HA
HA HAH Oh
I... NEVER EXPECTED THAT THE TALENTED ACTRESS "MAYU HIME-MIYA'S" FIRST ROLE WOULD BE SO... FUZZY.
OOOROO
CHOOR
OOOROO
.....
IT'S ALMOST VALENTINE'S DAY, YOU KNOW!!
Mayu's really happy lately!
SURE!
Come on!!
HEY, HEY, LET'S GO TO THE DEPARTMENT STORE. THEY'RE HAVING A SPECIAL SALE ON CHOCOLATE !!
I SHOULD BUY THIS ONE FOR MIYAKE-KUN ...
..WAIT, WHAT?! ...DID YOU SAY...?
HE'D PROBABLY LIKE ...
WHOOOOA!! LOOK AT ALL THE CHOCOLATE!!
I wanna eat it all up!!

CHOCOLATE IS SERIOUS BUSINESS! IT'S A SIGN THAT YOU'RE RETURNING MY LOVE!!
I GUESS, YEAH.
OH, NOW, NOW, YOU SHOULD NEVER "GUESS" ABOUT GIVING CHOCOLATE !!
YOW!!
I KNOW THIS ONE VERY WELL-- MY FANS ALWAYS SEND THEM!!
OHO! THIS IS A "GODIVA" SPECIAL VALENTINE'S BOX, WITH A SPECIAL LARGE HEART-SHAPED CHOCOLATE IN THE CENTER
I'M SO SORRY TO RUN OUT ON YOU, KANOKO.
I REALLY GOTTA GO TO WORK NOW, THOUGH. LOOK FORWARD TO MY RETURN !!
Bye for now!!
.....WELL, OF COURSE I WOULD EAT YOURS FIRST AND THEY WOULD CERTAINLY BE THE MOST DELICIOUS!!
OH..... REALLY?
So I guess you're swamped in these today, then?
oh man

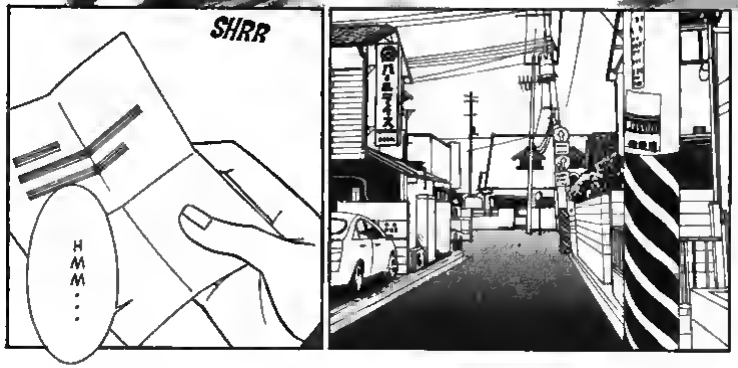
WHAAAAAA--?
chatter
TSUBAME IS ABSENT?! On Valentine's Day!!
Man, what do I do with the chocolate?
It's no good if I don't give it to him today
chatter
HELLOO-OOOOO GORGEOUS !!
KANOKO! ARE YOU GIVING CHOCOLATE TO ANYONE I KNOW TODAY? HOHO !!

YES, THAT'S RIGHT.
I HAVE NO INTENTION YET...
THE HEART IN THE CENTER ...
...IT'S GONE.
HM? WHAT'S WRONG? Heart?
...SHE...
HM.
IT SEEMS THAT SHE IS NOT YET MINE...

WOW. HE GOT REALLY HAPPY ABOUT THAT CHOCOLATE.
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, THAT'S THE FIRST TIME I EVER GAVE A GUY CHOCOLATE...
I wonder how many he got, though... hmm...
HEY--ARATA, WHO GAVE YOU THAT CHOCOLATE?!
...from that Himemiya girl?
KANOKO-CHAN IS MINE!!
...WHA--?
...YET...
Just reminding you that I'm opposed to you making her your girlfriend!! Okay!!
HEE HEE, LET'S OPEN ♡ THIS CHOCO-LATE...

WELL... I GUESS I JUST... RING THE DOORBELL
SO THIS IS WHERE TSUBAME LIVES...
DING DONG
SWOOSH
YOU THERE!! WHAT ARE YOU DOING??!!
GRAB
...I GUESS HE'S NOT HOME, THEN!!
GRMMM
ARE YOU TSUBAME YOSHIZAWA'S NEW GIRL-FRIEND?

...OF GIVING MY HEART TO ANYONE.


SHRR
HMM...

THAT KID, I TELL YOU. HE'S ALWAYS... FLUTTERING AROUND, YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN?
FLUTTER FLUTTER FLUTTER. ...I GET SO WORRIED ABOUT HIM.
THERE'S ALWAYS THESE DOWNRIGHT DISREPUTABLE GIRLS IN SHORT SKIRTS. LORD, YOU CAN SEE THEIR UNDERWEAR! I SWEAR, IT'S RIDICULOUS.
Well, not lately actually.
OH, REALLY ?
TSU-BAME'S A LONELY KID, I GUESS.
THE ONLY GUY HE REALLY SEEMS TO GET ALONG WITH-- THIS ONE GUY...
MIYAKE-- YOU KNOW HIM?
SEEMS LIKE HE'S TRYING TO... COMPENSATE FOR SOMETHING.
HE'LL CLING TO ANYONE ...

WELL, WELL, YOU'RE DEFIN-ITELY ...
...THE SANEST-LOOKING GIRL TSUBAME'S EVER BROUGHT AROUND HERE, THAT'S FOR SURE.
HMMMMMM
STARE STARE STARE
HM ?
...COME TO SEE IF HE WAS OKAY...?
UH..... NO?
TSUBA E WASN'T AT SCHOOL TODAY, SO I THOUGHT I'D.....
Don't eat me!!
IF... YOU INSIST ...
WHY DON'T YOU JUST WAIT IN HERE FOR A BIT?
I live right next door, yeah.
I'M HIS LANDLADY, SEE.
YOSHI-ZAWA'S BEEN HERE FOR A LONG TIME.
FLOP FLOP
CREAK
CREAK
CREAK
UH, YES.
Except for today
Here ya go.
SNRK
SO YOU'RE A CLASSMATE OF HIS?
IS HE GOING TO SCHOOL EVERY DAY?

OH MY..
"THE FIRST TIME I EVER HAD MEMORIES THAT DIDN'T BELONG TO ME...
...WAS WHEN I WAS SIX...RIGHT AFTER THIS... ACCIDENT...
TSUBAME...
I GUESS HE'S ALWAYS LOOKING FOR SOME COMPANION-SHIP...
...BECAUSE HE'S AFRAID OF BEING TOTALLY ALONE.
MUNCH
THAT'S WHAT KIKI WAS TRYING TO TELL ME ABOUT.
I GUESS TSUBAME'S HAD A REALLY ROUGH LIFE.
OH. I THINK I'LL HAVE TO BE HEADING HOME SOON.
AHH, YES.
IT'S REALLY TOO BAD HE DIDN'T SHOW UP, DEAR.

EVERYONE AROUND HIM JUST UP AND DIED...
AND THEN THE OLD GRANDMOTHER WHO TOOK HIM IN GOT SICK AND DIED IN HOSPITAL.
HE WAS SO SHOOK UP HE DIDN'T EAT ANYTHING FOR DAYS.
WHEN HE WAS JUST A LITTLE BOY, HIS PARENTS DIED IN A CAR CRASH, RIGHT IN FRONT OF HIS EYES.
I FEEL REAL SORRY FOR HIM...
I GUESS ..... WELL, SINCE ABOUT THE TIME HE WAS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL?
HRMM
THAT LONG?
HOW LONG HAS TSUBA-- YOSHIZAWA BEEN LIVING IN HERE?

HE'S JUST LOOKING FOR A REASON ...
IT'S SO... SAD...
...SOME MEANING TO HIS EXISTENCE IN THIS WORLD...

KIKI SAID TSUBAME ALMOST DIED HIMSELF.
BECAUSE HE'S LOOKING FOR A REASON TO BE HERE...
I GUESS I CAN KIND OF UNDERSTAND.
IT'S SO PAINFUL ...
THAT'S WHY TSUBAME IS SEARCHING SO HARD FOR AGEMAKI...
TSUBAME...

IT'S BORING AROUND HERE WITHOUT HIM!!
WHERE THE HECK IS TSUBAME?! Is he sick?
MANY DAYS PASSED AFTER THAT.
TSUBAME STILL DIDN'T SHOW UP FOR SCHOOL.
MAN!!
WE GOTTA GO FIND HIM!!
.....
NO.
MIKE!!
YOU'RE COMING TOO, RIGHT?
Since he won't answer his phone!!
TROOPS! WE'RE MARCHING TO TSUBAME'S HOUSE AFTER SCHOOL TODAY!
HE'S PROBABLY JUST LAZING AROUND!!

I GUESS I UNDERSTAND...
...HIS HEART...
...WILL NEVER BE SATISFIED... UNTIL...
YES...
I WAS LIKE HIM, TOO... ONCE..
CLICK
.....
CLICK
KANOKO.

SHO
ONK
GYAA
HEY!! DON'T JUMP TO CONCLUSIONS!!
MS. LANDLADY, CAN YOU LOAN ME THE SPARE KEY?
...YET I HAVEN'T HEARD A PEEP OUT OF HIM.
HE'S BEEN LEAVING THE LIGHT ON ALL NIGHT...
MAYBE THAT MEANS HE KILLED HIMSELF!!
TSU...TSUBAME!?

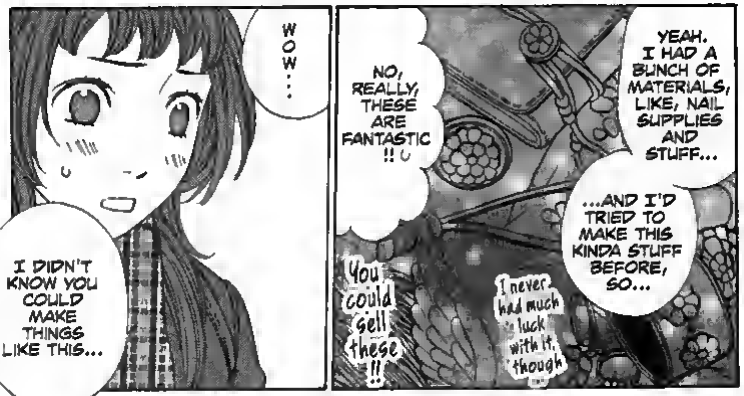
SO THIS IS TSUBAME'S HOUSE? Hmmm!!
A LITTLE DIFFERENT FROM WHAT I WAS EXPECTING.
WHAT THE HECK!! DID YOU AND TSUBAME HAVE A FIGHT!?
HEE HEE HEE
MAYBE TSUBAME BURNED HIS DINNER?
sydon
WHAT. WHY NOT?
I DON'T WANT TO ENCOURAGE HIM ANY FURTHER.
HEY!! WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU KIDS DOIN'?
NOK NOK
DING DONG DING DONG
HEY!! HEY!! MORON!! OPEN THE DOOR, WILLYA?
I'M KINDA WORRIED ABOUT THE KID. HE HASN'T COME OUT OF HIS ROOM IN DAYS...
WELL-LLL.....
I'm not his girlfr--
OH, IT'S TSUBAME'S GIRLFRIEND. HOW ARE YOU, DEAR?
Is she a Lyn
OH, GOOD AFTERNOON... MA'AM...

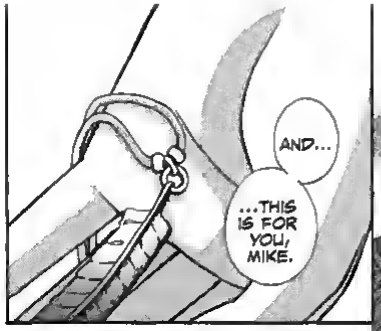
...HM?
POP
GYAH--
...WHAT?
KANOKOOOOOO!!
THIS IS FOR YOU.
A PRESENT.

...UH.....
...HM.
ZOOOOOO
Is he alive?
HUH?
WHAT THE HECK IS WITH ALL THIS PRETTY STUFF?
TSUBAHEE!!
OH MAN! HE'S TOTALLY UNCONSCIOUS!!
WHAT THE HECK HAPPENED TO YOU!?
AH--...
...HEY, LOOK, GUYS... IT'S KANOKO!
WE'RE HERE TO CHECK ON YOU, DUMMY!
OHO! HE IS AWAKE!!
WHAT ARE YOU GUYS DOING HERE?

AND I REALIZED...
...THERE'S NOTHING I CAN REALLY DO, EXCEPT THIS KINDA STUFF.

TSUBAME...
...YOU WERE MAKING THESE UNTIL NOW?
Yeah.
REALLY? WHAT ABOUT THESE ACCESSORIES?
DID YOU MAKE ALL OF THESE?
CLINK CLINK


WOW...
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU COULD MAKE THINGS LIKE THIS...
NO, REALLY, THESE ARE FANTASTIC!!
You could sell these!!
YEAH. I HAD A BUNCH OF MATERIALS, LIKE, NAIL SUPPLIES AND STUFF...
...AND I'D TRIED TO MAKE THIS KINDA STUFF BEFORE, SO...
I never had much luck with it, though.


AND...
...THIS IS FOR YOU, MIKE.

SORRY ABOUT WHAT I SAID.
GOOD LUCK ON YOUR EXAMS.

I THOUGHT, "IS THERE ANYTHING NICE I CAN DO FOR THOSE GUYS...?"

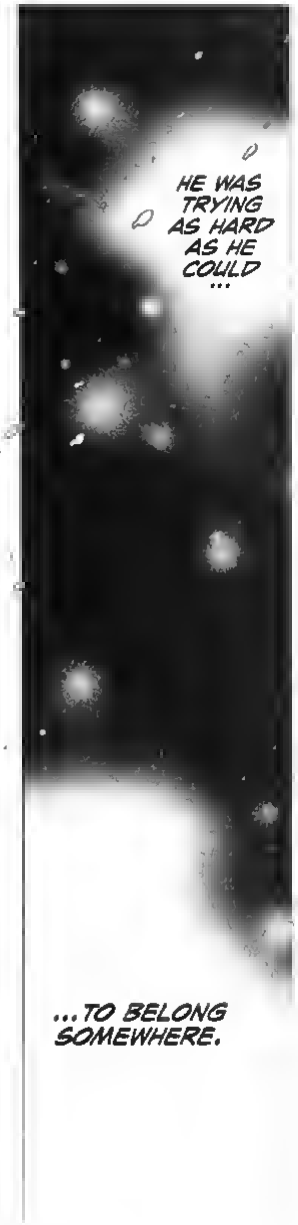
THANKS FOR THE CHOCOLATE.

WHA-- TSU-BAME!!
FWOOOSH
FAINT
He needs nutrition!!
FOOD! Water!!
You there, find a supermarket!!
Hey, have you had anything to eat aside from this chocolate?
Tsubame, get a hold of yourself!!
SO THAT'S HOW IT IS...
gurgle gurgle
SOUP OF DARKNESS
HE WAS TRYING AS HARD AS HE COULD...
Maybe!!
Is this... edible?
Dooon
HE WASN'T JUST PLAYING AROUND...

THANK YOU VERY MUCH...
...IT'S VERY BEAUTIFUL.
YOU REALLY THINK SO?
...THANK YOU, THEN--

...HUH?
I MEAN... WHAT I MEAN IS...
I...
YOU KNOW.
I'M GLAD I MET YOU.
I'D LIKE TO KEEP GETTING TO KNOW YOU. I MEAN--I'D LIKE TO GET TO KNOW THE TSUBAME OF RIGHT "NOW."

BRRRRR... IT'S COLD!!
SORRY TO MAKE YOU WALK ME HOME...
You sure you're okay?
OH YEAH, I FEEL WAY BETTER!!
Thanks to you guys' compliments!!
WELL... I GUESS HE IS FEELING BETTER...
...HEY, TSUBA-ME.
I NEVER THOUGHT SOMEONE LIKE YOU WOULD GET WORRIED ABOUT ANYTHING, LIKE I DO.


HE WAS TRYING AS HARD AS HE COULD...
...TO BELONG SOMEWHERE.

OTAYUBIHIME
INFINITY
CHAPTER 19
The Flying Kiss; The Sound of Bells to the North

THUMP
HEY! KANOKO!!
KANOKO, I WANTED TO SAY I LO--
"RIGHT NOW."
.....Y.....
.....YES.....H.....
I'm on my way back from work!! What are you guys talking about?
Good... evening.
I MET TSUBAME RIGHT HERE ...
WHATEVER HAPPENED TO US IN THE PAST ...
...RIGHT NOW, IN THIS WORLD.
...WHATEVER FUTURE IS WAITING FOR US...
CHAPTER 19 /END

AND IT JUST SO HAPPENS THAT MIKE IS IN HOKKAIDO RIGHT NOW ...
BEAUTIFUL DAY.
THE CLIENT SEEMED TO REALLY LOVE MAYU'S COMMER-CIAL...
...SO SHE'S BEING CALLED AWAY TO HOKKAIDO TO FILM A SPECIAL VERSION.
MOM! I'M LEAVING !! I'LL BE BACK!!
I'M GOING TO SCHOOL NOW, MOM.
SEE YOU GIRLS LATER !!
THERE'S NO WAY MIKE WON'T PASS THAT TEST!!
YOU EVER BEEN TO HOKKAIDO, KANOKO ?
NOPE. I HEAR THEY'VE GOT GREAT SEA-FOOD UP THERE.
Crabs, and... ramen
Tsubame's nail salon
THAT JUST MEANS WE CAN GO VISIT HIM!
THAT MEANS WHEN HE GRADUATES HE'LL BE GOING TO HOKKAIDO, THOUGH ...

WELL! BREAK A LEG OUT THERE!
I'LL BUY YOU A SOU-VENIR !!
HEY, KANOKO ?
DID YOU SEE MY CELL PHONE ?
OH, HERE IT IS !!
ARE YOU SURE YOU HAVE EVERY-THING ?
POSITIVE !!
OOH, MAYBE I CAN SEE MIYAKE-SAN UP THERE ♡ !!
HEE HEE
HEY !!
You're going for WORK.

Character Guide: #16

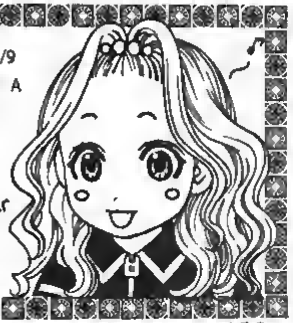
Marimo Takami

Birthday: 6/9

Blood Type A

- Six years old

Arata's Little Sister
Right now, she is staying with relatives at a hot spring inn. She is a clever little girl who has tons of respect for her big brother. She wants to be a model or an actress when she grows up. She is really close to her brother. She also has the prettiest little forehead in the world.



I THOUGHT ...
MIKE IS GOING TO BE A VETERINARIAN, RIGHT?
I THOUGHT, WHAT KIND OF WORK AM I GOING TO DO ?
SO FROM NOW ON I'M GOING TO START STUDYING TO BE A NAILIST, OR AN ACCESSORY DESIGNER. STUDYING FOR REAL, I MEAN!!
WOW!! THAT'S A GOOD IDEA!
YOU CAN TOTALLY BECOME A PRO, TSUBAME !!
WHAT ABOUT YOU, KANOKO? WHAT KIND OF CAREER ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?
...WELL, I USED TO THINK I WANTED TO BE "MAYA'S" MANAGER ...
UH.....
HEY, I KNOW ...
...THOUGH NOW "MAYA" IS GONE ...

THUMP
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...
...THAT CHOCOLATE YOU GAVE ME A WHILE BACK? THE CHOCOLATE IN THE MIDDLE WAS GONE!!
YOU ATE IT, DIDN'T YOU !!
You musta been hungry !!
...Um yes, yes I was.
YEAH...
THE HEART-SHAPED PIECE...
I TOOK IT OUT OF THE CHOCOLATE I GAVE TSUBAME, TOO...
I WAS STILL SO HAPPY, THOUGH !!
I MEAN, I REALLY LIKE HIM. A LOT.
THANKS TO YOUR CHOCOLATE, I WAS ABLE TO UNLOCK MY TRUE POWER !!
IT'S JUST THAT I WANT TO BE...FREE. FOR NOW.

...IS IT OKAY FOR ME TO BE SO EXCITED ABOUT SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
.....
AHH. EXCELLENT. ALL TOO EXCELLENT.
Hey! I'm not a girl!! And don't paint the skin!!
All right!! You have to let me do your nails next!!
...OR DO YOU THINK HE FORGOT ABOUT HER?
BOSS, WE STILL HAVEN'T FOUND THE "AGEMAKI" TSUBAME IS LOOKING FOR...
I'M KINDA JEALOUS OF THEM!!
THEY NO LONGER NEED MY ASSISTANCE (STALKING).
IT LOOKS LIKE THOSE TWO ARE READY FOR PRIME TIME.
HEH HEH HEH
Hey, Kameko...
You better not be planning to scoop me!!
"...AND THEN, AN IMMOBILIZING HAPPINESS APPEARED MENACINGLY BEFORE THEM..."
"...ONE DARK FATE WAS REPLACED WITH ANOTHER ONE...AND NO ONE NOTICED WHEN THEY VANISHED INTO THE PIT..."
THE BUTTON

...I MEAN...
I WAS JUST THINKING, IS ALL...
...OH MAN...
...I WONDER... CAN I...
UH... UMMM... HOW ABOUT I MAKE A STUDIO... AND YOU CAN... HELP?
MAYBE, I DON'T KNOW, MANAGE THE PLACE?
...AW, SORRY IF THAT SOUNDS STUPID...

OH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. WE WON'T BE GOING FAR TODAY!
I JUST WANT TO PAY YOU BACK FOR THE CHOCOLATE; BY MAKING YOUR DREAM COME TRUE!
WHAT DO YOU WANT THIS TIME?
YOU KNOW, I DIDN'T EXACTLY LIKE BEING STOLEN AWAY LAST TIME.
IF YOU'D JUST TELL ME FROM THE BEGINNING WHERE YOU PLAN ON GOING
OH, I HAVE MY WAYS!!
MY... DREAM?
HOW DO YOU KNOW MY DREAM?
DON'T WORRY! I'LL BUY YOU SOME CLOTHES!!
SERIOUSLY, I'M WEARING PAJAMAS HERE...
MAN, THIS GUY..
ALL RIGHT THEN!!
LET'S GO!!
HEY...
...NOT YET
I'M NOT SO SURE ABOUT THAT.
WHAT THE HECK IS MY "DREAM" AGAIN?

MY PRINCESS! ARE YOU AWAKE?
I BROUGHT YOU A BEAUTIFUL BOUQUET OF ROSES! THEY MATCH YOUR GORGEOUSNESS!!
Oh yes, they do!!
.....
GRAB
GYAHHH
HELLO, KANOKO'S MOTHER!! I'M ARATA, KANOKO'S BOYFRIEN--
SHOVE
UM-- HELLO? KANOKO WHO IS--
SO I THOUGHT..
WELL, I SUDDENLY FOUND MYSELF WITH THE DAY OFF.
YOU HAVE THE DAY OFF TODAY, TOO, RIGHT?
WHY THE HECK ARE YOU HERE AT A TIME LIKE THIS?
It's like nine in the morning.

WHAAAA?!
HELI-COPTER ?!
TH--THIS... THIS IS A...
SHOON
SHOOM
SHOON
C'MON KANOKO, GET IN!!
ARE YOU SERI-OUS ?
WOWWW!!!!
OON

OH MY...
I KNEW YOU'D CLEAN UP REAL NICE.
OH, YOU LOOK GOR-GEOUS.
have great taste, y'know !!
...HOW CAN HE BE LIKE THIS?
THERE'S JUST... NO STOPPING HIM.
WHERE ARE WE GOING NOW?
OH, JUST YOU WAIT AND SEE.
WOW!! YOU LOOK WONDER-FUL!!
IT LOOKS VERY GOOD ON YOU.

A LONG TIME AGO...
"...I COULD FLY AWAY..."
"...FLUTTER OFF LIKE A BUTTERFLY..."
...I HEARD YOU WHISPER THAT.

THIS IS INCRED-IBLE !!
...OUR CITY..
THE EVER-CHANGING CITY..
WAS THIS WHAT HE MEANT BY MY "DREAM"?
"IF ONLY..."
...IS THIS...
...WHAT YOU WANTED TO SHOW ME?

...WELL, WELL.
I GUESS STUBBORN PEOPLE REALLY DON'T CHANGE, AFTER ALL, HUH?
...AND SOONER OR LATER YOU'RE DEFEATED.
SOMETIMES YOU NEED TO LET PEOPLE HELP YOU.
...YOU TAKE ON EVERYTHING THAT COMES TO YOU...
SO YOU DO ALL YOU CAN ALONE...
IF YOU'D JUST ACCEPT ME...
...I PROMISE TO MAKE YOU HAPPY.

I WAS ONLY PRETENDING TO BE ASLEEP.
I WAS REALLY STARING AT THE SKY OUT THE WINDOW.
HE'S RIGHT...
I ALWAYS WANTED TO BE "FREE"...
STILL...
THIS ISN'T REALLY WHAT I WANTED--
I...
...I WANTED TO FLY BY MY OWN POWER...
YOU... ALWAYS WANTED TO FLY, DIDN'T YOU?

DON'T RUN AWAY FROM ME AGAIN... PLEASE...
I FEEL SO... POWERLESS ...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY ANYTHING ...
SEE, I...
I WAS REBORN FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE ...
OF MAKING YOU MINE.

AND I KNOW, KANOKO ...
I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN LONELY FOR A LONG TIME?
Blush
WHAT DO I DO?
KANOKO!
...NO, WAIT!!
YOU AND I HAVE BEEN CONNECTED FOR A LONG TIME.

THIS FEELS SO FAMILIAR ...

I LOVE YOU.
NO WAY!
DON'T SAY IT LIKE THAT!

MAN... MIYAKE IS SOME-WHERE IN THIS CITY, TOO ...
I WONDER ...
IT'D BE NICE TO MEET HIM AND TALK FOR A BIT...
NAH, HE'D PROBABLY BE MAD AT ME...
I KNEW YOU'D BE HERE ...
DONG
THAT'S THE SOUND OF THE CLOCK TOWER ...
DING
...AH...

WOWWW!!
MAN, THEY'RE NOT KIDDING WHEN THEY SAY HOKKAIDO IS C-O-L-D !!
My nose hurts.
YOU HAVE ONE HOUR!! GET BACK HERE IN TIME !!
Don't leave this area!!
AND IF ANYTHING HAPPENS, DON'T HESITATE TO CALL MY CELL PHONE !!
AW, I'LL BE OKAY-- THIS ISN'T TOKYO, AFTER ALL...
KATAGIRI SURE TOOK A LOT OF CONVINCING ...

TSUCHIYA...?
I GOT THE INFORMATION THAT YOU WERE IN HOKKAIDO...
SO I DECIDED TO TAKE A LITTLE LEISURE TRIP.
HOW'S YOUR WORK GOING?
...H...
WHAT THE HECK IS HE DOING HERE
YOU'VE BEEN MEAN TO ME.
WHY DID YOU MAKE YOUR LITTLE SISTER TELL ME SHE WAS "AGEMAKI?"
AND THEN...
...YOU WERE SO AFRAID OF ME YOU EVEN CHANGED YOUR NAME...
EVEN AFTER ALL THE LOOKING OUT FOR YOU I DID.
DID YOU WANT TO MAKE ME ANGRY?
UH--NO?
I MEAN, I'M NOT "AGEMAKI"--
SEE, LOOK--I DON'T EVEN HAVE THE BIRTHMARK ON MY THUMB ANYMORE!

...H...
IS THAT MIYAKE?
DING
I'VE MISSED YOU--
MAYA-CHAN.
HELLO.

I...DON'T BELIEVE IT.
RUN
W--WAIT !!
I'M SCARED --
SOMEONE HELP ME...
C'MON, KATAGIRI, PICK UP!!
I CAN'T GET A CONNECTION !!
WHY IS HE FOLLOWING ME?
I'M NOT "MAYA," AND I'M NOT "AGEMAKI" EITHER !!

MIYAKE-KUN!!
HUMP
YO, KANOKO?
VIDEO
HEY?
DAZE
LOVE & MOON

I FOUND SOME REALLY GOOD STUFF, SO I WAS THINKING OF JUST NOT EATING TONIGHT ...
I've got... fifteen yen.
.....
NO, WAIT ...
DARN IT, I SPENT ALL MY MONEY ON SUPPLIES ...
HEY, KANOKO, UM...DO YOU WANT TO GO OUT AND GET SOME TEA OR SOMETHING?
Sounds like I'm trying to pick you up or something ..
UH...
TSUBAME. HAVE YOU BEEN... EATING PROPERLY? YOU KNOW. SINCE... THAT DAY?
You don't seem to be eating anything at school.
You've been living on... candy?
AND, UH..... MAN, YEAH, JAW-BREAKERS ?
LIKE, SNICKERS ...AND M&MS...
YEAH, I'VE BEEN EATING A LOT THESE DAYS.

...UH ...
TSUBAME ...?
...WHAT WAS I... DOING HERE?
WHAT'CHA DOING OVER THERE?
HEYYY, KANOKO, I LIKE WHAT YOU DID WITH YOUR HAIR!!
OH, YES...ARATA PICKED ME UP...IN HIS CAR...
AND THEN HE TOOK ME SHOPPING, AND...
SO, UH, TSUBAME, WHAT WERE YOU DOING ?
ME? OH, I WAS OUT BUYING STUFF TO MAKE ACCES-SORIES.
BOOM!
OH MAN, I'M STILL WEARING THE STUFF ARATA BOUGHT FOR ME ...
OH, UH, THIS ?
I JUST, UH, THOUGHT I'D TRY SOME-THING NEW.
OH YEAH ?
It looks great.

THE AROMA CAT

Whenever I get tired, I rest my face on my cat's back. And I feel at peace.

I wish I could be as fluffy as him
Then again, it might get hot in the summer?

- Here I wish to give special thanks to all my assistants, and other people who helped with "OYAYUBIHIME INFINITY!!"
- Thank you very much to Ryou! Haru! Saori! Thanks a little bit to Yuuko! And the other Yuuko! Thank you all! Thank you always! Thank you more and more forever!

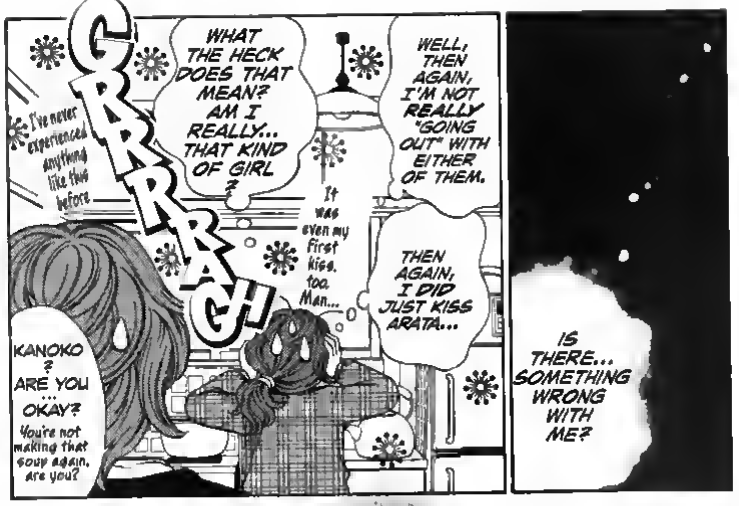
Here, I will announce my favorite character in this series. Ready? ...MIKE (...MAYBE!?)

I LOVE HER MORE THAN YOU COULD POSSIBLY UNDERSTAND !!
SHUT UP!!
NO.
YOUR EYES ARE CLOUDED BY MERE DESIRE.
SAYING THAT YOU LOVE SOMEONE ...
...DOES NOT MAKE IT SO.
YOU HAVE COME TO THINK YOUR WISHES ARE THE TRUTH...
...SO YOUR EYES FAIL TO LOOK TOWARD REALITY.

LISTEN TO ME.
MAYA!! DON'T BE TRICKED !!!!
THIS MAN IS ONLY PRETENDING TO HELP YOU!!
GRRR
THE ONLY THING THAT IS "FATED" IN THIS WORLD...
...IS THAT NOT EVERYTHING GOES AS WE WANT IT TO.
YAH!
WHY DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND?!
I AM YOUR "TRUE LOVE!!" DON'T YOU--

THE WORLD WILL NEVER CALL THAT BY THE NAME OF "LOVE."
SIP
GRRRRR
PFAGH!!
LET ME HELP YOU.
THANK YOU...
SWOOP
MIYAKE...!

NO...
YOU STUPID SON OF A...
FLASH
MIYAKE...!
WOW!!
THIS IS GREAT!!
Tomato + eggplant Pasta
YOU CAN COOK!!
Chicken soup


GRRRRRRRAH
I've never experienced anything like this before
WHAT THE HECK DOES THAT MEAN? AM I REALLY... THAT KIND OF GIRL?
It was even my first kiss, too. Man...
WELL, THEN AGAIN, I'M NOT REALLY "GOING OUT" WITH EITHER OF THEM.
THEN AGAIN, I DID JUST KISS ARATA...
KANOKO? ARE YOU ... OKAY?
You're not making that soup again, are you?
IS THERE... SOMETHING WRONG WITH ME?

SIGH
YOU'RE JUST LIKE A LITTLE KID!!
TOUCH
OH, NO, IT'S NOTHING! I'M PERFECTLY FINE!!
OH, TSUBAME. LOOK AT YOU. YOU HAVE TOMATO SAUCE ALL OVER YOUR FACE.
HUH?
NO, NOT THERE...

MAN!! SO TASTY, TOO!!
YOU NEED TO EAT REGULARLY!!
YOU'RE YOUNG!! YOU NEED TO VALUE YOUR HEALTH!!

KANOKO!! YOU NEVER TOLD ME YOU WERE A MASTER CHEF!!
I mean, that soup you made the other day was pretty far from gourmet
OH, WELL. I'VE BEEN COOKING ALL THE MEALS FOR MY FAMILY SINCE I WAS A LITTLE GIRL.
I can even make low-calorie stuff
CAN I GET SECONDS?!

MAN, IT FEELS KIND OF WEIRD.
I DON'T EVEN KNOW MYSELF, ANYMORE...
I LIKE TSUBAME. REALLY.
AFTER JUST GOING ON A DATE WITH ARATA...
...HERE I AM WITH TSUBAME ...
AND ARATA... WELL, HE HAS MY ATTENTION ...

AND I'VE REALIZED, KANOKO...
...I THINK I'M KIND OF IN L--
...UH, HELLO?
KABOOOM!!
BRRRRRRRING!!
KANOKO...

...UH...
...UM...
IT REALLY MADE ME HAPPY.
I HAVE SOMETHING TO TELL YOU. WHAT YOU SAID EARLIER ...
It's getting cold.
YEAH?
I FEEL LIKE I REALLY UNDERSTOOD WHAT YOU MEANT...ABOUT PEOPLE NEEDING TO CHERISH THEIR FRIENDS...
SO I...
I WAS THINKING ... YOU'RE MY...
...FAVORITE PERSON TO SPEND TIME WITH.
I UNDERSTOOD THAT IT'S MORE IMPORTANT THAN LOOKING FOR AGEMAKI ...
OH MY...

CHAPTER 19/END

WHAT HAP-PENED TO HIM?!
SNATCH
MIYAKE CAME TO HELP ME!!
AND... AND THEN ...!!
TELL ME!! ??
.....
HOW DEEP IS THE WOUND?
WHAT HAP-PENED?
IN THAT ONE NIGHT, THE NEWS OF MIKE'S STABBING SPREAD AROUND TO ALL THE CLUB MEMBERS.
WHAT THE-- NO WAY!!
MIYAKE GOT STABBED AND IS HAVING SURGERY?!
Just get... ting out of bath

MIYAKE...
THAT TSUCHIYA GUY STABBED HIM!!
WH... WHY?
IT'S ALL MY FAULT !!
I WAS BEING... HARRASSED BY TSUCHIYA... AND...
.....WH T?
Character Guide: #17
Agemaki (Kanoko)
Birthday: 6/9
Blood Type: O
Age about 18
Kanoko's past self, she was a high-class "lady of the night." She lost her parents at an early age, and was taken to Yoshiwara to live. Dying of a mysterious illness, she wishes to leave Yoshiwara and live freely, so she joins with Denkichi, a customer of her restaurant, in an effort to escape Yet, on the way, they die a tragic death
This hair is SO heavy

WELL!! HE HAD TO GET, LIKE, FIVE STITCHES !!
And there was like, blood coming out!!
MAYU!! YOU NEED TO STOP EXAG-GERATING WHEN YOU'RE USING THE TELE-PHONE !!
MAN, WE TOTALLY THOUGHT HE'D BE STABBED IN THE HEART OR THE TOP OF THE HEAD OR SOMETHING !!
HUH?
OH, YOU MEAN THIS ?
SO YOU... TOOK THE EXAM WITH YOUR HAND LIKE THAT?
YEAH.
MUST HAVE BEEN ROUGH ...
I HAVE DISGRACED YOU, GIRLS! THIS SHOULD NOT HAVE HAPPENED ON MY WATCH.
I WILL NOT ALLOW THAT CREEP ...
...TO HURT MIKE'S HAND AGAIN.
TO THINK HE'D TRACK MAYU DOWN AND STALK HER... AGAIN!!
THAT TSUCHIYA CREEP !!
TREMBLE
.....

MIKE WAS [illegible] D THAT HIS BEING HURT WOULD AFFECT MAYU'S ABILITY TO PERFORM...
...SO [illegible] WENT TO THE HOSPITAL [illegible]
THE WA[illegible] TO [illegible] IT...
...MIKE GOT STABBED WHILE HE AND [illegible] WERE STRUGGLING... AND THEN HE RAN AWAY WOUNDED.
Hu
gg
MIKE-CHAN!!
You're alive !!
YOU'RE ...ALL RIGHT ?
AND THEN ! ....
...TWO DAYS LATER!

I'LL GO.
NO. LISTEN.
I'M THE ONE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL OF THIS.
NO, KANOKO. I DON'T WANT YOU TO SEE THIS.

MIKE.
HAND MADE
I WILL AVENGE YOU WITH MY FIST.
WAIT.
YOU NEED TO CALM DOWN A BIT.
HEY, HEY, KID!
YES!! GO, MY WARRIOR !!
SHUT UP!!
ME AND MIKE ARE LIKE BROTHERS !! YOU'D NEVER UNDERST--
HEY, I KNOW HOW YOU'RE FEELING. TRY TO HAVE SOME PERSPECTIVE.
DON'T TRY TO STOP ME !!

CLICK
COME ON IN
MAN, HE'S A BIT CALMER THAN I EXPECTED HIM TO BE.
I thought he'd try to run away
HE SEEMS ALMOST ... CONTEMPLATIVE.
I'M... I'M... I'M SO SORRY ...
I DIDN'T MEAN FOR IT TO COME TO THAT.
I'LL... I'LL PAY THE HOSPITAL BILL.
HOW MUCH WAS IT? I HAVE CASH...
GRR!
YOU COULD NEVER PAY...
ACTUALLY...
...I'VE COME TODAY TO SPEAK FORMALLY TO YOU.

WE WERE ABLE TO STOP TSUCHIYA ...
YET, I STILL NEED TO BE ABLE TO...
...CONVINCE HIM THAT I WAS AGEMAKI IN THE PAST LIFE.
TSUCHIYA THOUGHT THAT MAYU WAS AGEMAKI... WHEN REALLY I WAS...
...AND HOW EVEN MIKE GOT INVOLVED IN ALL THIS...
THEN...
...SINCE I WAS THE ONE WHO GOT HIM INVOLVED BACK THEN...
I HAVE TO MEET HIM. I HAVE TO SETTLE THIS.

I TRIED TO USE YOUR FEELINGS, AND YOUR DEVOTION, FOR MY OWN GAINS.
AND FOR THAT, THERE IS NO EXCUSE.
I OFFER YOU MY SINCEREST, HUMBLEST APOLOGIES.

...YES.
THOUGH YOU DID NOT BELIEVE ME...
...WHEN I TOLD YOU I WAS "AGEMAKI" IN THE PAST LIFE, I WAS NOT LYING.
UH... WHO...
...ARE YOU MAYA'S SISTER? FROM BEFORE?
MAYU...
...WAS AGEMAKI'S KAMURO* YUMEJI.
*KAMURO A Geisha's apprentice
...!
ARE YOU STILL STICKING TO THAT STORY?
IN YEARNING, SHE GAVE HERSELF THE SAME TATTOO AS AGEMAKI.
TSU-CHIYA-SAN.
...AND ...DENKICHI-SAN AS WELL.
.....

OH MAN... MAN, OH MAN...
HAH... HA...
...I'M SO EMBAR-RASSED...
WHEN I ATTACKED HIM WITH THE KNIFE...
I CUT MYSELF... RIGHT ON THE THUMB...
I WAS WRONG ALL ALONG...
OH MAN ...
I WAS A COM-PLETE IDIOT ...
LOOK ...
LOOK AT THIS.
...!

...YOU REALLY ARE... AGEMAKI.
!
... OH MY GOD ...
... YOU ...

AND SOMEHOW... IT WOULD PLEASE ME VERY DEEPLY...
...IF YOU WERE TO CHERISH EVERY SECOND OF YOUR LIFE FROM NOW ON.
YEAH...
YOU KNOW... THAT SOUNDS LIKE A REALLY [illegible] IDEA.

AND I SUDDENLY FELT...
...ALL THIS "PAST LIFE" BUSINESS... IT DOESN'T MATTER ANYMORE.
AND...THE BIRTHMARK... IT JUST KIND OF... BLED OUT.
...ALL OF IT WAS JUST...
...JUST...
...SOME KIND OF ILLUSION ONLY I COULD SEE.
YOU AND I...
...WE WERE REBORN...
THERE IS STILL A FUTURE FOR YOU.
PERHAPS THIS ISN'T FOR ME TO [illegible] THOUGH...
TSU-CHIYA-SAN...

I'M SORRY. YOU WANNA GO INSIDE?
You have allergies?
RUB RUB
AW MAN... MY AWWER-GIES...
ACHOO!
SOON I WON'T BE A FRESHMAN ANYM--
NAH, IT'S ALL RIGHT FOR A LITTLE BIT.
HM?
.....
YOU SEEM KIND OF DEPRESSED LATELY.
UNLESS... YOU WANNA GO INSIDE?

IT'S FINALLY GETTING WARMER.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE BEEN UP HERE!

NAH, I DON'T THINK SO. I MEAN...
I THINK EVERYONE EXPE-RIENCES THAT, IN A WAY.
AFTER ALL...
...NO ONE IS CAPABLE OF LIVING THEIR LIFE...
...WITHOUT GETTING INVOLVED WITH SOMEONE ELSE, IN SOME WAY...

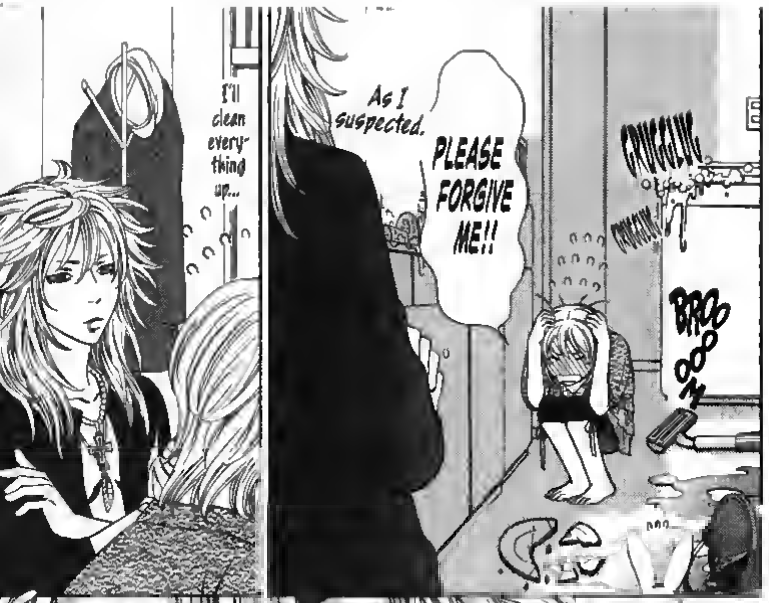
EVER SINCE YOU TALKED TO TSUCHIYA.
WELL, I'D DONE SUCH A HORRIBLE THING TO HIM...
HE DIED BECAUSE OF ME, DO I EVEN DESERVE TO CHERISH MY *OWN* LIFE?
I TOLD HIM TO CHERISH HIS LIFE...
THOUGH I DID SUCH A TERRIBLE THING TO HIM IN THE PAST.
ALL I EVER WANTED WAS TO BE "FREE..."
DO YOU THINK...
I MIGHT HAVE GONE THROUGH ALL THIS TROUBLE TO BE REBORN JUST SO I COULD APOLOGIZE FOR SOMEONE ELSE'S WRONGDOING?
...IS THAT REALLY SO BAD TO WANT SUCH A THING?
THEN AGAIN...

YOU KNOW, BACK THEN, YOU WERE PRETTY WEIRD YOURSELF !!
Wellllllll... maybe !!
GRR!!
YOU ALWAYS LOOKED SO ANGRY... IT WAS SCARY !!
WHEN I FIRST CAME TO THIS SCHOOL, YOU NEVER LAUGHED AT ALL, KANOKO.
HEY--
What about you is "typical?"
No way, man. I am and have always been the a typical modern high school student.
No, you were. Definitely.
You were still a bit weirder, though.
WHEN I'M WITH HIM...
I CAN BE COMFORT-ABLE AS MYSELF...
This is pretty normal, isn't it?
YES.
I FEEL LIKE...

"...IS A GIFT FROM GOD, REPRESENTING A CHANCE TO BECOME HAPPY."
MY GRANDMA TOLD ME THIS! A LONG TIME AGO!
"BEING BORN INTO THIS WORLD ..."
I GUESS ...
...YOU COULD SAY...
...WE EXIST TO MAKE OURSELVES FEEL BETTER.
AND LOOK AT YOU--
GRIN
YOU CERTAINLY... LOOK A LOT HAPPIER TO ME!!

ALLOW ME TO REPAY YOU FOR YOUR ACT OF BRAVERY !!
PLEASE, SIR!
MIYAKE !!
.....
THAT WAS NOT YOUR FAULT.
NO! IT WAS MY FAULT!! I WAS THE ONE WALKING AROUND ALONE!
WELL.
NO, NO, NO, YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO SAY YES!!
YOU GOT INJURED TRYING TO SAVE ME...
NO, IT'S ALL RIGHT.

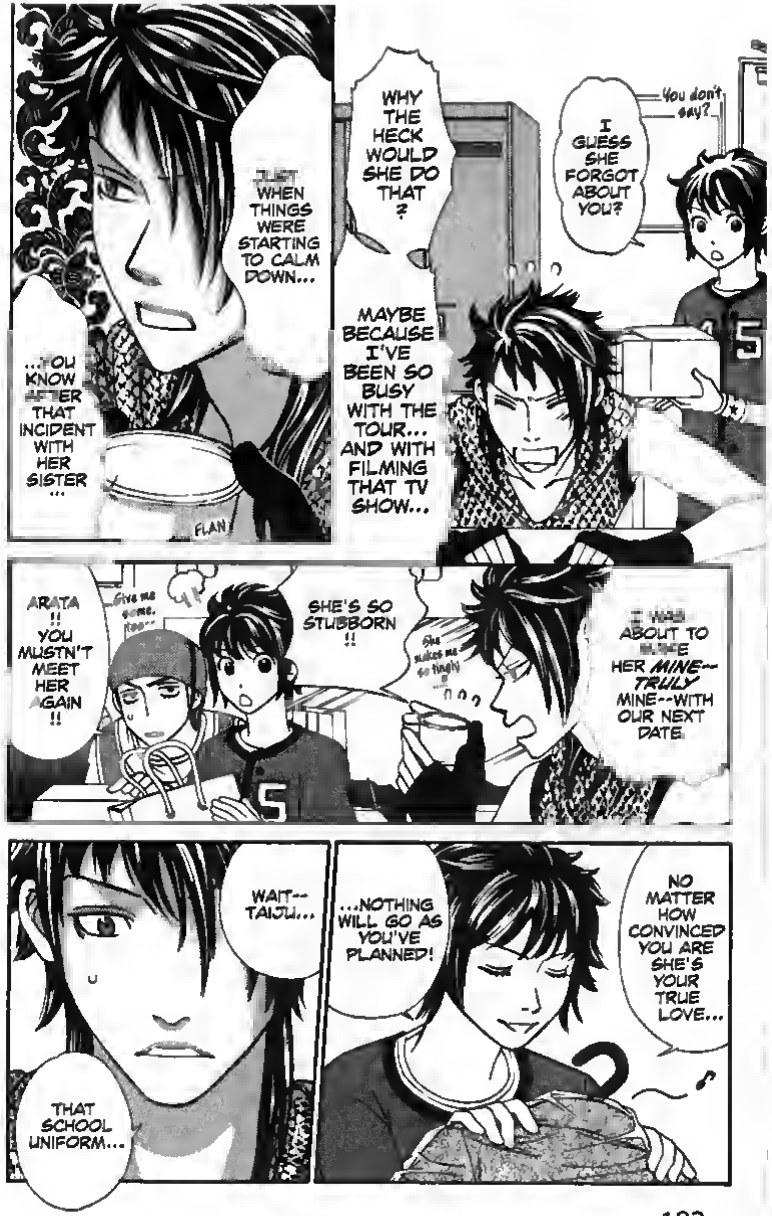
WELL...
...HERE'S TO OUR "CHANCE TO BE HAPPY..."
...LET'S NOT BETRAY OURSELVES ...
LET'S GO FOR IT...
...EVEN IF WE MAKE MISTAKES...
...LET'S NEVER GIVE UP.


I'll clean everything up...
As I suspected.
PLEASE FORGIVE ME!!
CRUMBLING
BROOOM

KANOKO HASN'T TEXTED IN A WHILE ...
MANNNNNN...

.....
MY WOUNDS ARE MY OWN FAULT. YOU MUST PAY ATTENTION TO YOUR WORK.
I owe you my life!!
I'LL EVEN TAKE THE SCARF BACK, SEE?
NOOO!! C'MON LET ME DO SOMETHING TO HELP YOU!!
SHIVER
.....
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, YOU DID LOAN ME YOUR SCARF WHEN I WAS CUT. I USED IT TO STOP THE BLOOD.
I WASHED IT; IT IS STILL DIRTY. I CANNOT RETURN IT IN THIS CONDITION. CONSIDER THE DEBT REPAYED, THEN.
.....
I CAN HELP YOU CLEAN YOUR HOUSE ?!
THERE MUST BE, I DON'T KNOW, SOME THINGS YOU CAN'T DO BECAUSE YOU HURT YOUR HAND, RIGHT ?
.....YES. GO RIGHT AHEAD, THEN.

WAIT A SECOND !!
YOU ARE SO EVIL !!
LATER...
MIKE FAILED THE HOKKAIDO UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE EXAM.


JUST WHEN THINGS WERE STARTING TO CALM DOWN...
...YOU KNOW AFTER THAT INCIDENT WITH HER SISTER...
FLAN
WHY THE HECK WOULD SHE DO THAT ?
MAYBE BECAUSE I'VE BEEN SO BUSY WITH THE TOUR... AND WITH FILMING THAT TV SHOW...
You don't say?
I GUESS SHE FORGOT ABOUT YOU?
ARATA !! YOU MUSTN'T MEET HER AGAIN !!
Give me some time...
SHE'S SO STUBBORN !!
She makes me so angry!
I WAS ABOUT TO MAKE HER MINE-- TRULY MINE--WITH OUR NEXT DATE.
WAIT-- TAIJU...
THAT SCHOOL UNIFORM...
...NOTHING WILL GO AS YOU'VE PLANNED!
NO MATTER HOW CONVINCED YOU ARE SHE'S YOUR TRUE LOVE...

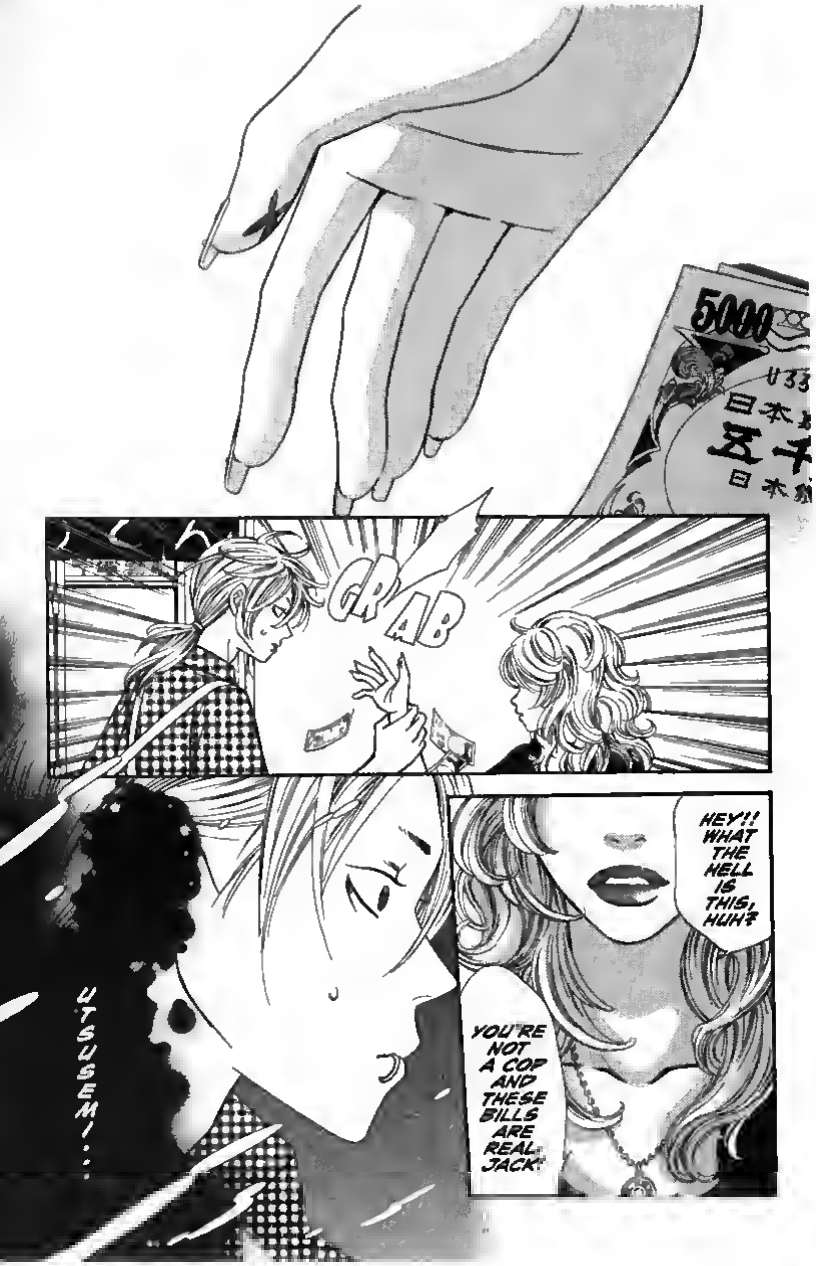
GOOD MORNING, EVERYBODY !!
TA-DAA !?
TA-

YOU... TOOK THE EXAM? YOU'RE, LIKE, REALLY A STUDENT HERE ?
WHAT THE ...
HELLO. PLEASED TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE. I LOOK FORWARD TO STUDYING WITH YOU.
TA-DAAA

...SPRING CAME.
AND THEN ...
NEW STUDENTS! YES!!
AHHHHH
HE'S TAKING A YEAR OFF. HE'LL TAKE THE EXAMS AGAIN THIS YEAR
HE SAID HE WAS TAKING A JOB AT A CONVENIENCE STORE NEAR HERE.
NO WAY !!
THEY ARE GONNA LET HIM LOOK AT CUS-TOMERS ?!
As a cashier or what ?
HAVE YOU GUYS HEARD FROM MIKE LATELY ?
MAN, WE HAVE TO TAKE EXAMS THIS YEAR ... I'll pass of course
I LIKE THEM YOUNG!! OH YES I DO!!
IS HE A NEW STUDENT HERE ?
...WAIT... ...ISN'T THAT ...?
stamp stamp stamp stamp
OHMY GOD OHMY GOD, EVERYONE, LOOK!!

THANKS A LOT!!
CRAB

WE WOULDN'T WANT HIM TAKING UNWORTHY GIRLS ON HELICOPTER RIDES WHEN I'M NOT LOOKING!!
WELL, IT'S EASY TO KEEP TABS ON ARATA ☆!!
YEP.
I KIND OF CAME TO LIKE THIS PLACE.
IT'S EASY TO GET TO WORK, AND...
HEY, IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK...
KANOKO!! YOU...YOU... YOU...
...you are my HERO.
Why didn't you tell us?
KANOKO, ARE YOU STILL GOING OUT WITH ARATA?
WHA--?!
SOMEHOW...
...I GET THE FEELING THIS IS GOING TO BE ANOTHER WACKY YEAR.
Sorry!!


5000
GRAB
HEY!! WHAT THE HELL IS THIS, HUH?
YOU'RE NOT A COP AND THESE BILLS ARE REAL JACK!
UTSUSEMI...

HERE YOU GO...
ALSO, GIVE ME SOME CIGARETTES. THOSE MENTHOLS RIGHT THERE. YEAH, THOSE.♡
YES.
AND, UH, ONE OF THOSE MEAT BUNS, TOO!
YOUR TOTAL IS 1,158 YEN.
ALLLLLL RIGHT...
YOU HAVE CHANGE FOR A 10,000 ?
YES. YOUR CHANGE IS...

It's really difficult to draw Japanese courtesans. For me, anyway. The ladies in traditional Japanese painted (Ukiyoe) are soooo pretty.

We tend to imagine that the ladies had heavily made up facas, but in fact, those in the early period considered cosmetics (such as powder and lip colors) to be indecent items. The heavily made up ladies, as we see in theaters today, started to appear in the Edo Period (1600-1868).

I drew this "Agemaki" here as elegantly as possible to get used to drawing this style better

Beautiful appearance wasn't the only qualification to become the most-favored Yoshiwara ladies. They had to have artistic and musical talant and be educated as well. They were proud of the talents they had which allowed them to be successful.

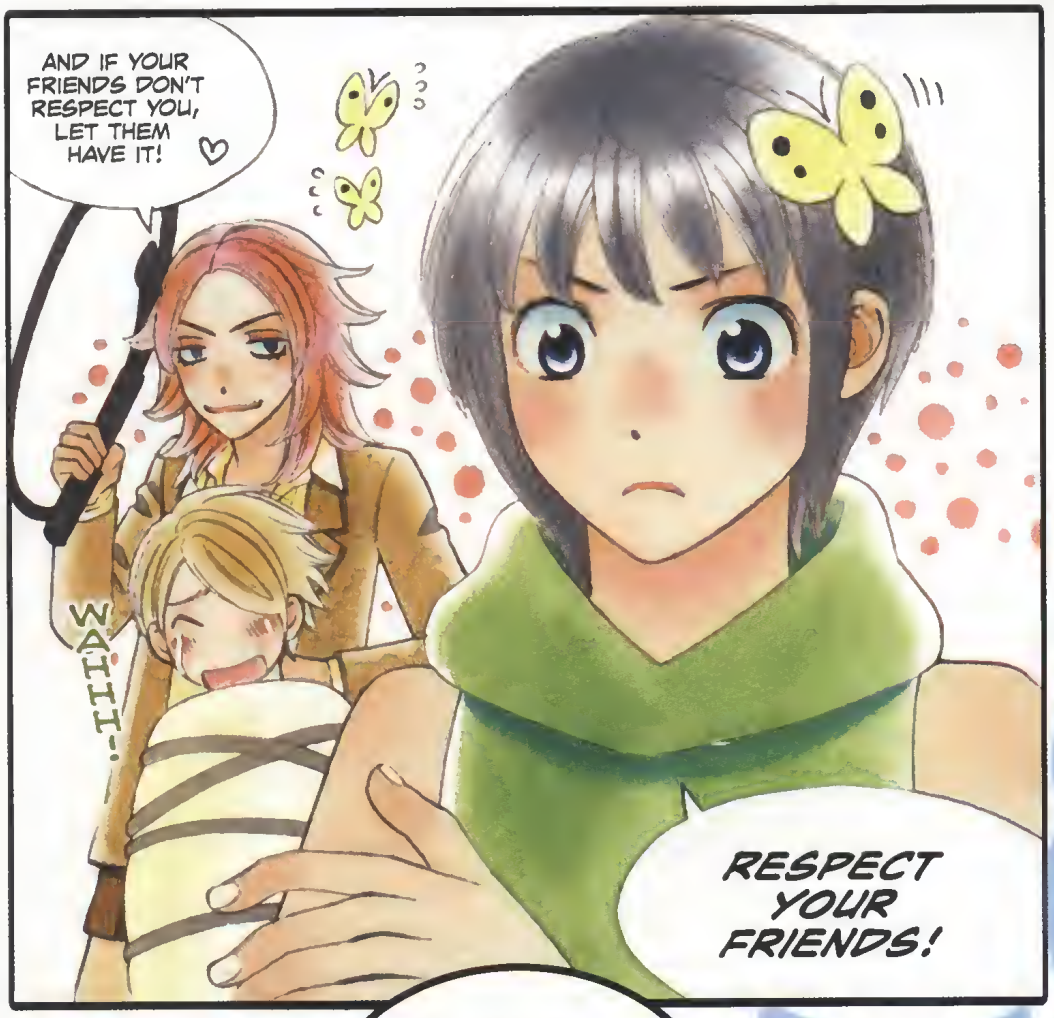
However, their actual lives were very hard and tough, so many of them died young.

They say that "Agemaki" of Yoshiwara existed once in a generation. I wonder if that's really true. Whether it's true or not, she was definitely a very beautiful woman.

Anyway! We'll see you again in Volume 5!

OYAYUBIHIME INFINITY VOL. 4: END.

CHAPTER 20/END



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The Rival in This Love is Destiny Itself!!

TEEN
MILD LANGUAGE
SUGGESTIVE THEMES

So it turns out that Arata, leader of the hit idol group "Splash," was Kanoko's benefactor--the nobleman Sakakibara--in her past life. Just when Tsubame realizes his true feelings for Kanoko, she starts to see the good in Arata. Now Tsubame is going to have to fight for Kanoko's love, destined or otherwise!